



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
FACULTY CONGRESS

Academic Year 2014-2015

Annual Report to the University Senate
Friday April 24, 2015

The Faculty Congress is an organization constituted by the faculty of Villanova University for the purposes of discussing all matters of interest to the faculty and, where appropriate, passing resolutions related to such matters. While resolutions may be sent to any administrative officer, the Faculty Congress has a direct consultative line to the University's chief academic officer. The following are some highlights of the Faculty Congress's activities during the 2014-15 academic year; full details are available via the minutes posted on the Congress's web site.

1. The Congress remained engaged with the ongoing discussion (begun in 2013-14) of sworn and/or armed campus security officers thanks to a presentation by Barbara Wall, Vice President for Mission & Ministry, and by reviewing campus security statistics for the period 2004-13 (which revealed no significant increase in security data that would support an increase in the number of sworn and/or armed security officers).
2. A presentation by Alfonso Ortega, Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Programs, Office of Research and Graduate Programs (ORGP); and R. Kelman Wieder, Assistant Vice President for Research and Strategic Initiatives finalized the work of an ad hoc committee examining Summer Research Fellowships and Research Support Grants and offered insight into the administration's work to increase support for faculty research projects, including a number of initiatives to be proposed in the coming months.
3. The Congress supported the Provost search by holding a special open meeting to discuss the search in October 2014; through the presence of Congress representatives during the videotaped interviews with the three finalists; and by facilitating dialogue (both through an online feedback form and in person) to organize and synthesize feedback from the faculty at large, in support of the entire process in general and the final deliberations in particular.
4. After working with OPIR, the Congress passed a resolution on best practices for surveys (available for download on the Congress web site, under "Reports and Resolutions": a set of criteria that, when satisfied, will garner the active support of the Faculty Congress to encourage colleagues to participate in surveys of the university's faculty.
5. By way of a resolution (April 20), the Congress reiterated its support for academic freedom as it is defined in the Faculty Handbook, specifically as it relates to faculty members' freedom to determine what content is appropriate both in their research and in their classes.
5. The Faculty Congress is pleased to continue to administer a number of awards: each semester's Facultas Award (given by the faculty to a meritorious staff member) and the university-wide teaching and service awards conferred at Commencement.

On behalf of the Faculty Congress,

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Whidden, chair
Jerusha Conner, vice chair