

Meeting of the Villanova University Academic Policy Committee

Thursday, April 18, 2012
Mendel Science Center, room 103, 3:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Louise Russo (chair), Paul Pasles, Joyce Willens, Lesley Perry, Mike Pagano, Ed Kresch, Bob Styer, Sridhar Santhanam, Mark Sullivan, Matthew Pagano, Lowell Gustafson, Wayne Bremser, Fayette Veverka, Letizia Modena, Dennis Kuhn, Gabrielle Bruno, Marisa Fetterman

Not in Attendance: Chiji Akoma (sabbatical leave), Farid Zamani, (medical leave), Craig Wheeland (NIA), Christopher Haas (NIA), Adele Lindenmeyr (NIA), Megan Copel, Mary Ann Cantrell (NIA), Ellie Garbade, Elizabeth Heurich (NIA), Kathleen Carden (NIA), Susan Mackey-Kallis (fellowship leave), Gerard Jones (NIA)

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

- I. Minutes from the meeting of March 29, 2012 were approved with a minor revision.
- II. The committee reviewed and formally approved the 2015-2016 academic calendar as provided by the VPAA's Office by unanimous vote. The 2016-2017 calendar was provisionally approved pending clarification of a discussion point raised by Ed Kresch regarding the unusual schedule during the last week of the semester. This issue and request for further discussion was relayed by the APC chair to Craig Wheeland.
- III. The chair updated the committee on the list of voluntary participants in the task force in interdisciplinary teaching. The largest proportion of membership represents the College of Arts and Sciences. There are currently two members from Nursing and one from the School of Business. No member(s) from Engineering has been identified. The chair asked for assistance by the APC members from VSB and Engineering to suggest/nominate potential members from their constituencies so the task force will have full representation from across all academic centers within the University. The APC chair will contact prospective members to solicit their participation prior to the end of the semester.
- IV. The committee welcomed Jim Trainer and Paul Bonfanti from OPIR as guests for the purpose of review and critique of the CATS Interpretation Guide Draft document which was provided by Craig Wheeland in advance of the meeting. This draft had been reviewed by the CATS Guide sub-committee and the current document had been revised based upon discussion points raised by APC members of that group. Full APC review led to a lengthy line item review and critique of the Draft Guide and the chair recorded comments and suggested editorial changes as the discussion proceeded. The main areas of discussion were focused on the following items:
 - (a) The need to be consistent in format of numerical score values

- (b) The need to refocus attention on the overall purpose of the CATS report for faculty and administrators, the realization that they are but one component in evaluation of teaching effectiveness, and that they reflect student perception of instructional quality as a starting point.
- (c) How to rework particular passages that were listed broadly under “recommendations” so that the wording indeed reflects recommendations as to how to interpret data rather than simply stating data outcomes.
- (d) Whether the Guide should include specific numerical values in the Guide rather than simplified verbal descriptions as a way to prevent hard numbers from becoming the focus of the report which could be used as some sort of “standard” values in evaluation processes.
- (e) How to present the interaction of gender and ethnic variables without using specific examples for sample data interpretation.

The chair will share the comments with Craig Wheeland and will work with Craig, Paul Bonfanti, and Jim Trainer to produce a revised Draft document to share with the full membership for review prior to the end of the semester.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Russo

Members of APC: Louise Russo (chair), Wayne Bremser, Fayette Veverka, Robert Styer, Adele Lindenmeyr, Christopher Haas, Mark Sullivan, Mary Ann Cantrell, Louise Fitzpatrick (represented by Lesley Perry), Joyce S. Willens, Mike Pagano, Paul Pasles, Chiji Akoma, Kail Ellis (represented by Craig Wheeland), Jean Ann Linney (represented by Lowell Gustafson), Gary Gabriele (represented by Gerard Jones), Kevin Clark (represented by Dennis Kuhn), Letizia Modena, Susan Mackey-Kallis, Farid Zamani, Ed Kresch, Sridhar Santhanam, Elizabeth Heurich, Kathleen Carden, Gabrielle Bruno, Megan Copel, Ellie Garbade, Matthew Pagano, Marisa Fetterman (non-voting member)