



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
FACULTY CONGRESS

Academic Year 2021-2022

September 14, 2021

9:00 am to 10:30 pm

via Zoom: <https://villanova.zoom.us/my/drtomway>

MINUTES

Present: Amanda Knecht, Aronte Bennett, Bridget Wadzuk, Debra Shearer, Jennifer Altamuro, Jeremy Kees, Joe Betz, John Sedunov, John-Paul Spiro, Kathryn Haymaker, Paul Bernhardt, Paul Steege, Peter Busch, Rabih Moussawi, Rachel Skrlac Lo, Rebecca Winer, Rory Kramer, Ruth Gordon, Stephanie Katz Linkmeyer, Stephen Liedtka, Sue Metzger, Tom Way (Chair), Travis Foster

Absent: Ani Ural, Benjamin Scheick, Eugene McCarraher, Gerald Beyer, Gregory Hoskins, Ilia Delio, James Peyton Jones (Vice Chair), Jared Paul, Javad Siah, Jennifer Ross, Kamran Javadizadeh, Lisa Sewell, Melissa Hodges, Meredith MacKenzie Greenle, Metin Duran, Samantha Chapman, Shannon Hamlin, Sherry Burrell, Tina Agustiady, Wenqing Xu

Invited guests: Andrew Scott, Cathy Curley, Elaine Youngman, Meg Willoughby, Q Chung, Robert Styer

Housekeeping

- Minutes from the May 2021 meeting were approved by vote.

Standing Committee Reports (*reports submitted in advance; please see appendix; this time set aside for elevated issues and/or questions*)

1. Awards Committee (Andrew Scott [chair, external member], Sherry Burrell) – The committee is working on their regular awards committee schedule. Nominations are solicited in October; the committee works November to February, reviewing nominations and finalists.
2. Adjunct Faculty Representatives (Tina Agustiady, Shannon Hamlin)
3. CNT/FTNTT Faculty Representatives (Sue Metzger, J-P Spiro) – Sue mentioned investigating the Provost's policy in spring that changed promotion increase for TT faculty, but did not change the promotion amounts for CNTs. The parity was the goal when the promotion process for CNTs was established. Now that parity has been lost. We would like to investigate and report back to our CNTs. Tom will reach out to Sue after meeting with Pat and Craig has been scheduled. JP added: one other concern is the University race and justice course which will be phased in starting soon. In the description of the course, when the course is fully developed, adjuncts or CNTs would teach it to make the 'cost more sustainable'. Having instructors be the people with the least job security concerns us.

4. Election and Credentials Committee (Q Chung, Jen Palenchar, Qi Wang, Bob Styer [emeritus]) – The committee has closed nominations for R&T and CNT promotion committees, and are ready to go for elections. In spring 2022 we have elections for the current FC seats. We will need to vote for a new chair and vice chair in March.
5. Research Policy Committee (RPC; James Peyton Jones, chair) – RPC is looking for a new chair (currently James), and also looking for another member from VSB.
6. Faculty Rights & Responsibilities Committee (FRRC; Amanda Knecht, interim chair) – one-year chair Amanda Knecht has been elected by FRRC.
7. Retired faculty members (Joe Betz) – Quarterly club meeting Thursday 9/23 in room 105 of the Mullen Center. Meeting begins with a Mass for the recently deceased. There is also an initiative to sponsor refugees from Afghanistan; contact Joe with questions.

Committees with Faculty Representation (*time set aside for questions about reports received*)

1. Academic Policy Committee (Bridget Wadzuk, chair) – APC will be meeting next week; continuing working with OSPIE and the CATS subcommittee
2. Intellectual Property Policy Board (James Peyton-Jones) – As was reported in the FCEC email update, some progress has been made but other issues are ongoing; Board needs a member from Nursing.
3. Policy (Jennifer Altamuro, Jake Elmer) and Operations (Elaine Youngman, Cathy Curley) Committees – The operations committee has been focused on the logistics of policy changes and increasing communication through campus currents, wildcat wire, and updated signage in iPrint. There is planned to be increased surveillance testing after fall break. University-sponsored trips of more than two nights require pre- and post-testing. The policy committee has had discussions around surveillance testing and contact tracing. They have also discussed study abroad in Spring 2022. In response to a question about the difficulty of teaching for 2.5 hours in a mask, Cathy offered to recommend that the health center provide guidance on the type of masks that are safe and comfortable. Another member asked about how to address students who are not wearing masks properly. The policy committee has discussed that the intention was not to have everyone police each other, but there are poor mask-wearing conditions in different places. In common campus spaces, the messaging there is that staff should feel free to approach students and ask them to wear a mask.
4. “The future of work” HR subcommittee (Rebecca Winer) – The committee was charged to answer: what have we learned in terms of how we should work moving forward at VU? Included many people across the curriculum; 3 faculty representatives; majority of those on the committee were folks in HR and directors of different sectors of the campus. The committee produced a statement that was given to the President, which stressed being open-minded and collaborative. Rebecca has sought approval to share document with FC, but has not heard back yet.

Old Business

1. Recap of FC leadership activities May-Sept, 2021 – some activity over summer, especially regarding mask policy and the late announcement of that
2. General Protocol, reminder to identify ways to emphasize it is in place and stipulates faculty consultation
3. Recruitment of interim FC leadership - Vice Chair (overlap during Fall, then Spring 2022), RPC Chair (Spring 2022) and RPC members

New Business

1. Introduce new FRRC Chair Amanda Knecht (was approved by FRRC membership)
2. Faculty-Staff Choir funding request, \$250 to help with annual costs – motion was approved by vote

3. Constitution and By-Laws Update Committee, members needed – Bob Styer: When the Faculty Senate dissolved, the committee setup was in the Senate constitution, not FC constitution, so that must be incorporated. This is an opportunity to advocate to expand the FC – for example by formalizing the connections to various committees on campus (the Athletic Advisory committee; Budget committee; student life; mission and social justice; University parking committee; and other committees of value). Bob needs help deciding these items. Tom: We need to take what we have now and update, and then find places where additions can be made, then bring a proposal to FC to vote on. Completing this task is a goal for this year. Please email Tom if you are interested in joining. Committee will start within the next few weeks. Bob is happy to meet in any fashion (zoom, etc.)
4. Masking policy and Covid-related matters, issues to pursue or advocate for this Fall – email leadership if you have concerns.
5. Open discussion
 - There was a discussion about issues facing us at the beginning of the semester. The discussion points are summarized below.
 - Far too few protections were available: no masks, no consideration of students coming from virtual learning. There are also concerns about contact tracing: students don't know their classmates yet, and there has not been a recommendation of seating charts. Last semester hospitalizations did not appear on the dashboard, because occurred after they went home. Concerns about young children of faculty/staff have been ignored. The disregard shown for the children of staff/faculty this semester is appalling. Students are being told every day that they should have the mask over their nose.
 - FCEC shared the disappointment with how slow the mask policy was to come out, and that it was established without a faculty voice.
 - There was a suggestion to consider a resolution or at least statement from the FC would help you and those on the Covid committee in their future efforts to get the administration to collaborate more with the faculty.
 - It was noted that parents of small children at other Universities have asked to teach online.
 - Looking forward: what can we do now to make sure that better decisions are made? What do we do from here? Should we request online accommodations going forward for those who have at-risk family?
 - Meeting adjourned at 10:33am

Reminders

Upcoming Congress events:

Fall 2021 Faculty Congress general meetings (Zoom)

- Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 9-10:30
- Monday, October 18, 11:30-1
- Thursday, November 18, 9-10:30
- Friday, December 17, Noon–1:30

Spring 2022 Faculty Congress general meetings

- TBD

2020-21 Faculty Fridays, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Presidents' Lounge, Connelly Center)

- Canceled till further notice