



Villanova University Faculty Congress
Academic Year 2016-2018

FACULTY CONGRESS MEETING
October 25, 2017

Present: Aronté Bennett, Joseph Betz, Sohail Chaudhry, Jerusha Conner, Gordon Coonfield, Rick Eckstein, Marylu Hill, Stephanie Katz, Christopher Kilby, Rory Kramer, Michael Levitan, Eric Lomazoff, Peggy Lyons, Mike McGoldrick, Joseph Micucci, Alan Pichanick, Salvatore Poeta, Quinetta Roberson, Catherine Warrick, Kelly Welch, Dennis Wykoff, Rosalind Wynne.

Absent: Sheryl Bowen (NIA), Danai Chasaki (on leave), Alice Dailey, Mirela Damian (NIA), Angela DiBenedetto, Jennifer Dixon (on leave), Diane Ellis, David Fiorenza (NIA), Ruth Gordon, Shelly Howton (NIA), Jeremy Kees, Peggy Lyons (NIA), Elizabeth Petit de Mangé (NIA), James Peyton-Jones (on leave), Michael Posner, Rees Rankin, Jennifer Ross (NIA), Joseph Schick, Mark Wilson (NIA), Tina Yang.

The meeting convened at 10:30 AM in Room 300, SAC.

New Business:

The meeting started with new business to accommodate the schedules of the presenters.

1. Lauren Ward, from the Center for Access Success and Achievement (CASA), gave a short presentation on the Affordable Materials Project (AMP), an initiative co-sponsored by Falvey Library intended to help mitigate the high costs of textbooks for students in financial need. Ms. Ward noted that students pay on average \$940 per year for books; in addition, for the 40% of Villanova students who received need-based aid, this additional cost for books can be prohibitive. AMP represents an effort to assist students who are struggling with the high cost of books. Ms. Ward encouraged faculty to take advantage of the AMP, and to be mindful of the costs of required texts. She also suggested that faculty get their book lists in early to the University Shop (to allow for AMP materials to be found); to use the same texts across multiple semesters to allow students to purchase used copies; to be open to older editions of the textbooks they use; and to make use of physical and electronic course reserves at Falvey Library. She noted that when the university shop shares the book lists with Falvey Library; the librarians then find open access materials.

For more information, faculty can go to this link: <https://library.villanova.edu/amp/index.html>

2. Millicent Gaskell, Director of Falvey Library, gave a brief update on Falvey Library's deselection project. She offered a clarification of the criteria for deselecting materials: books that are 1) more than ten years old, and 2) haven't been checked out in more than ten years; 3) are

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currently owned by other university libraries in the United States (with at least two on the east coast). She noted that they are not looking to get rid of things that are used frequently, and she emphasized that the librarians need faculty review of the deselection lists; these lists are available on a monthly basis on the Falvey Library website:

<https://library.villanova.edu/about/projects/library-collection-review-deselection-project>

Several questions were raised regarding books that were disposed of despite frequent use by a faculty member. Dr. Gaskell noted that the library has been weeding selectively for years, but this is a much broader project which required faculty input. Other questions were raised regarding what happens to the books that are deselected, whether the subject librarians are reaching out to the individual departments, and whether there is a target number of books to eliminate. Dr. Gaskell stated that the books will be donated to Better World Books (a charity organization). She also noted that the subject librarians should be reaching out to the individual departments, but she strongly urged that departments be proactive about asking their faculty to check the deselection lists frequently (once a month). There is no target number of books; they are open to what the community needs. One faculty member noted that this is especially bad for doctoral dissertations; Dr. Gaskell said yes, which is why Falvey needs the help of the faculty to monitor the books that should remain in the library.

3. The Villanovans Against Sweatshops student group gave a short presentation and requested Faculty Congress to consider supporting their proposal to hold Nike accountable for rights of workers according to the University Code of Conduct, and to urge the administration to create a Presidential Licensing Oversight Committee. FC members asked whether the students had also met with the Augustinians, and the students noted that they were meeting with Fr. Art Purcaro and Fr. Hagan. Other questions were raised what exactly is in the University Code of Conduct, and where Nike is in violation of that code. The faculty commended the students for their work according to Catholic Social Teaching, and Faculty Congress agreed to take the request under consideration.

After the presentation, the concern was raised that Faculty Congress is increasingly being asked to get involved in making political statements and taking moral stands on external political issues that are outside of the FC mandate. It was agreed that FC would revisit this question.

Housekeeping

1. Minutes from the September 19, 2017 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved with three abstentions.

Discussion of Standing Committee Reports:

In an effort to better focus the discussion of the FC, members are now asked to read the committee reports (appended to the agenda) rather than spending time in the FC meeting reviewing all of the committee reports. Members are asked to identify issues from within the report that need to be elevated to full discussion.

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At this point, Jerusha asked if there are issues to raise for further discussion from the standing committees or whether there was any new business to report or add.

One FC member expressed concern regarding the committee reports that more diversity committees were being created instead of actual work happening to support diversity. The concern was that there is too much talk and too little action. Christopher Kilby suggested that ideas for action be funneled to APC's Diversity Subcommittee. He noted that APC's role is to provide advice rather than implementing things, but it can sort out what the best advice is to give.

Regarding other APC issues, another FC member asked whether there is time to get feedback from the individual departments regarding the proposed CATS diversity questions. Christopher Kilby noted that the questions are still in revision, and feedback can be given to Jim Trainer by the end of October. It was asked whether FC is allowed to share the draft questions, and the answer was not widely. A short discussion ensued about whether the questions had been tested for validity, and whether all questions on CATS, and not just the diversity questions, should be scrutinized in the same way. Concerns were raised about how faculty will be judged on the results of these questions. It was suggested that these are policy issues which FC members should bring back to their constituents.

A question was raised about whether the committee reports are placed on the website, and whether they are password-protected. Jerusha stated that these are intended as public documents, and they are not password-protected.

Michael Levitan announced that AAUP equity action week will address adjunct protections. They are looking for adjuncts to participate in a panel; pay will be provided.

Old Business Updates

1. Ombudsman proposal. Jerusha noted that it is moving forward with Fr. Peter Donohue.
2. Mold concerns. Jerusha noted that there is an outside group coming in to assess and submit a report.
3. Provost feedback on classroom concerns document. Jerusha urged FC member to fill out this document.
4. AVPR response to our feedback. The feedback on Awards and Field Guidelines was shared with Amanda Grannas, as well as FC concern about the new administrative positions. Amanda stated that she shared FC concerns about the reduction in teaching load.
5. There was no follow-up on the FRRC report about associate deans serving on the Rank and Tenure committee. The question was raised with Dean Lindenmeyr regarding Barry Selinsky serving on the committee as an Associate Dean, and another faculty member was found who was willing to be considered for election. It was noted that the Faculty Handbook would need to be revised to bar associate deans from serving on the Rank and Tenure Committee. It was decided that FRRC should be asked to consider this issue.

New Business:

1. Strategic plan discussion debrief and next steps

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There was a short discussion of how to follow up on the Faculty Congress-led Strategic Plan meeting on Friday, October 20 and the comments received through the FC website. Some HERI survey results were reviewed briefly, and it was noted that Villanova faculty reported significantly less satisfaction with teaching loads, retirement benefits, salary, and opportunities for scholarly pursuits than their peer groups, and higher stress and anxiety linked to increasing work responsibilities. It was suggested that a good way to frame the conversation might be the “Great Colleges to Work for” list published by the Chronicle of Higher Education. The last part of the conversation was spent working on paragraphs for a draft document concerning faculty input on the Strategic Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Submitted by Marylu Hill, Faculty Congress Secretary

November 21, 2017

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