



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY CONGRESS

Academic Year 2023-2024

November 21, 2023

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

via Zoom: <https://villanova.zoom.us/j/94432808002>

AGENDA

**Present:**

Tina Agustiady, Jennifer Altamuro, Theodore Arapis, Paul Bernhardt, Joe Betz, Sherry Burrell, Cheryl Carleton, Joseph Drury, Kathryn Haymaker, Gregory Hoskins, Stephanie Katz Linkmeyer, Amanda Knecht, Rachel Skrlac Lo, Michelle McKay, Jennifer Ross, John Sedunov, David Shaffer, John-Paul Spiro, Robert Styer, Bridget Wadzuk

**Guest: Meg Willoughby**

**Absent:**

Farshid Baghai, Aronte Bennet, Gerald Beyer, Samantha Chapman, Kerry San Chirico, Col. Vincent Ciuccoli, Jacob Elmer, Eric Hamberger, Kamran Javadizadeh, Ann Juliano, Jeremy Kees, Michelle Kelly, Sue Metzger, Sergei Nersesov, Jared Paul, Frank Pryor, Qi Schlupp, Lisa Sewell, Troy Shirangi, Raka Shome, William Wagner, Mark Wilson

**Housekeeping**

- Welcome
- Approval of minutes from October, 2023 meeting

**Announcements**

- The all-faculty vote for Faculty Congress constitution changes is planned for December. A link to the recording of the information session from 11/17/23: <https://villanova.zoom.us/rec/share/MCwpqeyR5SOLL8cBHXWRA2vJksIPa3jPItAHxFOzoKHqTXnvXVwCnSTeh9gZcKPW.7GHZJKPaGf5yekSK?startTime=1700233407000>  
Info session, 8.5 minutes. Vote will be open for two weeks. General encouragement to **share with our departments** including this link. FC will send an email to FC reps.
- Cabrini update from president (send 11/2). There's a survey for feedback along with information. Encouraged to **complete the survey and to share with departments**.

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

Amanda Knecht, Ann Juliano, Aronte Bennet, Bridget Wadzuk, Cheryl Carleton, Col. Vincent Ciuccoli, David Shaffer, Eric Hamberger, Farshid Baghai, Frank Pryor, Gerald Beyer, Gregory Hoskins, Jacob Elmer, Jared Paul, Jennifer Altamuro, Jennifer Ross, Jeremy Kees, Joe Betz, John Sedunov, John-Paul Spiro, Joseph Drury (Vice Chair), Kamran Javadizadeh, Kathryn Haymaker (Chair), Kerry San Chirico, Lisa Sewell, Mark Wilson, Michelle Kelly, Michelle McKay, Paul Bernhardt, Qi Schlupp, Rachel Skrlac Lo, Raka Shome, Samantha Chapman, Sergey Nersesov, Sherry Burrell, Stephanie Katz Linkmeyer, Sue Metzger, Theodore Arapis, Tina Agustiady, Troy Shirangi, William Wagner

1. Awards Committee (Joe Schick (chair), Sherry Burrell)
  - Thanks to Joe for agreeing to be the chair for 23/24. **Encourages faculty to nominate self and others for awards, and share with department.** All materials have been shared with Joe. Fr. Peter has promoted the awards on campus (e.g., Campus Currents). Also consider nominated people to be 24/25 chair.
2. Adjunct Faculty Representatives (Tina Agustiady, Eric Hamberger)
  - No update
3. CNT/FTNTT Faculty Representatives (Frank Pryor, Sue Metzger, John-Paul Spiro)
  - No updates, but Frank Prior is stepping down. Will need to have someone appointed until end of 23/24 AY.
  - Stef Katz self nominated. FCEC will accept other nominations and then announce decision.
4. Election and Credentials Committee (Q Chung, Jen Palenchar, Tania Romero, Qi Schlupp, Bob Styer [emeritus])
  - Vacancy for CNT (ex. Law school), so CNT faculty will be voting for new CNT rep.
5. Research Policy Committee (RPC; Jared Paul, chair)
  - No update
6. Faculty Rights & Responsibilities Committee (FRRC; Amanda Knecht, chair)
  - Update on nursing R&T review; plan is to implement new R&T process in AY24/25.
  - ULC: Provost's office aiming to have ULC be opt-in for spring 2024. Then, once confirmed, FRRC will update handbook. Encourages reps to share shift to opt-in to departments.
7. Retired faculty members (Joe Betz)
  - Quarterly Club update; Afghan refuge update; accolades to Meg Willoughby and role of ombuds

**Committees with Faculty Representation** (*reports submitted in advance; please see appendix; this time set aside for elevated issues and/or questions*)

1. Academic Policy Committee (Bridget Wadzuk, chair)
  - *Minimum standard use of LMS:* comments sent to Provost's Office. Subcommittee formed to review the new minimum standards and also implementing new LMS.
  - *Proposal for new Follett pilot program:* APC voted to pilot the flat-rate program for course materials. There will be an opt-out feature for students; raised concerns about equity of the program. Provost's office sent concerns to Follett including a request for more data re: costs. Additional concern of how to share this info with students and families. NOTE: different flat-rate for Law school, undergrad and grad programs. FC discussed flexibility of program, opportunities for other suppliers, training for faculty to understand the system, cons and pros of the proposal, need to bring student voices into process, survey of students to get a sense of true cost of books (i.e., not just cost of books from the bookstore). Pilot proposed for summer 24; Follett will be meeting with Fr. Peter. Remaining question: What is the condition that is required by faculty and students before approving? (data, whether to be gathered before and during pilot.) Bridget is gathering questions, so contact her. Table discussion for early spring.

### Old Business

1. Extension for age of dependent tuition benefits to age 26 from age 23 and related tuition policies – gathering information from HR
  - Feedback from HR: there are tax implications if the age is over 23. If age restrictions did not apply, then perhaps tax implications for all ages (but unclear in response from HR). Some questions about discrepancies between IRS and VU dependent definition. Proposed changes to be made via the Benefits Committee, which has faculty reps.
2. Minor wording change to the [constitution](#) prior to the full-faculty vote (Bob Styer)
  - Article II, Section 4, previously approved wording:

- i. Section 4. Faculty are eligible to run for and serve on Faculty Congress during or after six continuous semesters as faculty at the University, except for the three at-large faculty seats who are eligible during or after three continuous semesters as faculty at the University.
- It was pointed out that “during” could be anytime in the six semesters, including the first semester. To clarify this, we propose that we word it as follows:
  - i. Section 4. Faculty are eligible to run for and serve on Faculty Congress during or after their sixth continuous semester as faculty at the University, except for the three at-large faculty seats who are eligible during or after their third continuous semester as faculty at the University.
- Discussion: concern over what is “continuous” for adjuncts, and what is the purpose of “continuous” in the wording. Poll held to get a sense adjustment to wordings. Poll was to vote on wording to be presented to all of FC for vote to change wording (after this meeting, because we didn’t have quorum.) Poll results recorded.

## **New Business**

1. Ombuds annual report (Meg Willoughby) - see <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/resources/faculty/ombuds.html#:~:text=The%20Office%20of%20the%20Ombuds,Objective>
  - Annual report is a way to raise themes and patterns in concerns; provides direction and highlights concerns with administrator. Ombuds report is on the website. Recommends sharing with colleagues. Currently an informal channel for faculty (TT, tenured, CNT, adjuncts). Position is FTE (10 months).
2. Request for nominations for faculty outstanding research award committee member – preferably social sciences (Katie)
  - Needs 1 committee member (Alison Payne cycled off). Looks at nominations and associated materials, and then makes recommendation. Nominees need to be tenured.
3. Updates from meetings with VPTL and Provost (Joe & Katie)
  - ULC opt-in, moving of bookstore to St. Mary’s (Kennedy to be demolished); establishing proctoring center; ADVISE and Degreeworks (ADVISE to be phased out with Degreeworks phased in by Spring 24); advising inequities (differences across departments; role of advising as teaching or service) and possibility to do a larger review.
4. Faculty role in advising – gathering feedback (Katie)
  - Proposal to review advising at university level. Requesting information about what info is needed to be included in review. What should be the focus? Discussion: need to invite people who have been doing the advising; credits vs. courses and the challenges of making adjustments that impact students (equity, liability, etc.); variations across colleges; changes in requirements due to shift from regional to R2 institution; differentiating between advising that is about professional guidance and administrative support); concern over increased role of faculty advisors and ability/capacity for faculty to sustain high level of advising (e.g., changes to advising rules, additional support for students incl. mental health)
5. Other business

## **Reminders**

*Upcoming Congress events:*

FC leadership meetings with Provost & Vice Provost

(Katie, Joe, Bridget, Amanda)

- ~~Thursday, September 28~~
- ~~Thursday, November 16~~

Fall 2023 Faculty Congress general meetings

- ~~Thursday, August 31, 9:30am—11:00am (Zoom)~~
- ~~Friday, October 6, 11:00am—12:30pm (Zoom)~~
- ~~Tuesday, November 21, 12:00pm—1:30pm (Zoom)~~

2023-24 Faculty Fridays, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (*The Refectory*)

- ~~September 4~~
- ~~October 6~~
- ~~November 3~~
- February 2
- March 1
- April 5

## **Appendix A: Standing Committee Reports**