



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY FACULTY CONGRESS
Academic Year 2015-2016

FACULTY CONGRESS MEETING
October 21, 2015

Present: Joseph Betz, Lillian Cassell, Suzanne Clain, Jerusha Conner, Linda Copel, Alice Dailey, Mark Doorley, Frank Falcone, Ruth Gordon, Paul Hanouna, Edward Kresch, Kenneth Kroos, Michael Levitan, Mike McGoldrick, Joseph Micucci, Robert O'Neill, John Olson, Paul Pasles, Salvatore Poeta, Louise Russo, Katina Sawyer, Nancy Sharts-Hopko, Catherine Warrick, Thomas Way, Kelly Welch, Seth Whidden

Absent: Wayne Bremser, Rick Eckstein, Diane Ellis (NIA), David Fiorenza(NIA), Judith Hadley(NIA), Jeremy Kees, Julie Klein(NIA), Sarvesh Kulkarni(NIA), Mi Luo, Wenhong Luo, Susan Mackey-Kallis (on sabbatical), Lisa Sewell, Joyce Willens (NIA), Miron Wolnicki

Other Guests: *Bob Styer (University Senate)*
Emily Walsh Irving (University Staff Council)
Kimberly Reilly (University Staff Council)
Deanna Zubris (Awards Committee)

The meeting convened at 1:30PM in SAC 300.

Housekeeping

1. Minutes from the September 21, 2015 meeting were approved.

REPORTS:

1. Academic Policy Committee (Russo). The APC is putting together two new task forces. The first will look at implementing online CATS. The Provost is keen to move in this direction. A second task force will look at the evaluation process of adjunct faculty. All volunteers for these committees are welcome, particularly from CoF and the Adjunct faculty committee. The third task force on the university core curriculum hopes to have a proposal for the APC to review by February 2016.
2. Adjunct Faculty: Mike McGoldrick reported a keen interest of his members to participate on the APC's task force on adjunct evaluation. The committee is also looking at a process of incentivize publication by adjuncts. They are also having another social, to which the Provost has been invited.
3. Awards Committee (Deanne Zubris): volunteers are still needed. Suggested that the Facultas Award be awarded only once a year, at the Holiday party for staff in December. Discussion ensued. A motion was made to adopt this suggestion. Seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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There was also a discussion to restructure the teaching awards selection process. The awards committee has done a great job, but perhaps we can come up with a process more like the Lindbeck selection process, to increase the credibility of these awards. Various ideas were discussed. The resolution was that the Faculty Congress Chair will reach out to the members of the Lindbeck Committee to solicit suggestions for how to re-structure the FC teaching award selection process.

4. Committee on Faculty: Sarvesh Kulkarni was not present. Jerusha Connor reported that CoF did not like the suggestion sent to it by the Faculty Congress. They are in the process of identifying a new name for their committee. CoF did agree to absorb the responsibilities of the Employment Issues Committee (EIC). Issues that might have come to the EIC in the past will now be addressed by an ad-hoc sub-committee of the COF. A primary reason for this change is efficiency of resources. A motion was made to amend the by-laws to reflect this change. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Jerusha also reported that Craig Wheeland brought several things to CoF that need to be addressed in the faculty handbook, including selection of Dean and policies related to outside employment by Villanova full time faculty. These will be addressed.
5. CNT/FTNTTF Committee: Robert O'Neil had nothing to report.
6. Elections and Credentials: Bob Styer reported that we have filled seats on the Rank & Tenure Committee. Janice Knepper (Science), Carmen Peraita (Humanities) and Vito Punzi (Engineering) were elected.
7. Employee Issues Committee (EIC): No report, other than what was reported under Committee on Faculty.
8. Retired Faculty Committee: Joe Betz reported that there will be a November gathering of retirees, with a presentation on the new Center for Sports Law in VLS. He encouraged people to attend the Syrian & Iraqi Refugee Symposium on October 21st. He also invited participation by current Villanova faculty in the Gray Panthers program at Graterford Prison, a program involving elderly inmates who have grown old at the prison

Old Business

1. Swearing and arming of campus security officers

This topic sparked a discussion that took up the rest of the meeting.

Two student initiatives in response to the decision were announced.

- a. Friday, October 23, 2015 at 11:30AM people will gather in front of St. Thomas of Villanova Church and walk to the Oreo, observing 30 minutes of silence. Everyone on campus is encouraged to wear white that day.
- b. On Monday, October 26th, there will be a forum on the decision, sponsored by students, collaborating with the Association for Change and Transformation(ACT) a student group, in Mendel 102.

Although an official vote was not taken, a significant number of Faculty Congress members are quite disappointed by, and frustrated with, the decision to arm some security personnel on campus. What seemed most frustrating is the lack of transparency in the process. A survey of the students was taken in 2012-2013 but the results were never released. Professor Barbara Wall chaired a Presidential task force on the topic but the results of this task force have not been released. In addition, in May 2013 the Faculty Congress issued a statement, unanimously endorsed by the

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Congress, that clearly rejected the option to arm any security personnel on campus. There is a sense that decisions are being made without adequate transparency and that the administration needs to be accountable to the rest of the community. The following steps were supported by the members present:

- a. Seth Whidden will write letter to Villanovan sharing the FC resolution
- b. Moving forward, Alice Dailey, Catherine Warrick and Mark Doorley will solicit, receive and collate faculty's questions related to process and lack of transparency by NOV 4.
- c. Request a public forum for USC/SGA/FC with Fr. Donohue, with plenty of time (40 min) set aside for questions
- d. Draft a statement honoring student's right to protest, with no fear of reprisal
- e. Identify ways in which faculty can influence implementation process.

At 3PM, with much more on the agenda to address, a motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Fall 2015 Faculty Congress meeting schedule (SAC 300, all faculty are invited)

Thursday, November 19, 9-10:30AM

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