



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
FACULTY CONGRESS

Academic Year 2014-2015

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS it is appropriate and useful to conduct occasional surveys of faculty in order to collect attitudinal, demographic, and other data;

WHEREAS the importance of accurate and ethical survey methods is a matter of long-established consensus in academia;

WHEREAS participants in survey and other research have a right to informed consent regarding their participation and the use of the data they provide;

WHEREAS faculty members appreciate the confidential and sensitive nature of data collected from survey respondents;

WHEREAS faculty members may be reluctant to participate in research on faculty without seeing the results of the research once it is completed, and low participation will affect the quality of findings;

And

WHEREAS data from surveys are easy to deliver in a timely fashion to faculty in a manner that does not compromise confidentiality or anonymity;

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Faculty Congress calls for the application of existing ethical standards for research on human subjects, such as are required for research approval by the Internal Review Board, to all University-sponsored or –conducted research on faculty. This means that respondents will be informed of
 - a. the survey’s purpose,
 - b. how the findings will be used,
 - c. whether responses are anonymous, confidential, or neither,
 - d. who will have access to personally-identifiable information provided in surveys, and
 - e. whether and when the survey’s findings will be reported to the community.
2. When possible, data collected from surveys should be made available, consistent with the responsible treatment of survey data, to respondents.

3. The Faculty Congress strongly recommends that all surveys conducted or sponsored by the University be reviewed by a survey methods expert in OPIR before dissemination. The Faculty Congress further recommends the creation of a list of faculty members with expertise in survey research who are willing to serve as occasional consultants for University surveys.
4. Surveyors should share with the participants, no later than three months from the close of the survey, the descriptive statistics of the faculty responses to each item, disaggregated by rank, gender, College, and all other relevant variables for which there are more than ten responses. Exceptions to the three-month deadline are acceptable if stated explicitly in the survey.
5. The Faculty Congress will not encourage faculty participation in campus surveys that fail to adhere to these standards.

Resolved this 20th day of March, 2015.