



University Senate

Villanova University
DRAFT Minutes of the Academic Policy Committee
February 1, 2010
SAC 300 3:00-4:00

Present: Bryan Kerns, Prof. Ed Kresch, Prof. Adele Lindenmeyr, Gil Morejon, Prof. Nancy Sharts-Hopko; Prof. Bob Styer, Prof. Mark Sullivan, Prof. Fayette Veverka, Prof. Joyce Willens

NIA: Chiji Akoma; Jack Johannes; Julie Klein; Emmet McLaughlin; Michael Pagano (on leave); Farid Zamani

1. The Faculty Handbook.

- a. It was moved by M. Sullivan and seconded by J. Willens that the Faculty Handbook be approved as circulated. Approval was unanimous. It is noted that there are issues of concern with the current Rank and Tenure Policy, and in this newly approved iteration of the Faculty Handbook with the Dean Selection Process, and the Review of Assistant/Associate Deans. They will be raised at the next annual review of the Faculty Handbook.

2. Statement on the Provost.

It was determined that the suggestions A-J, as compiled and circulated by J. Klein would be considered in turn.

- a. The group believes that Student Life is moving in the right direction in terms of the integration of co-curricular learning with academic programs. In general this unit is working well and we endorse an “evolution rather than revolution.” So we do not endorse the suggested change.
- b. There are already positions identified as separate from the span of control of the Provost, and in A we declined to subsume Student Life under the Provost’s authority at this time. Moreover we recognize that the ultimate job description will come from the President and Board of Trustees.
- c. Same as above.
- d. The Library and Enrollment Management already falls within the purview of the VPAA.
- e. We suggest revising #6 to read: “Raise the importance of graduate education at Villanova, promote selective development of important new programs, and support synergies between undergraduate and graduate programs to build intellectual vitality.” We noted that the person’s other point has been addressed by the Trustees’ decision not to pursue increased rank.
- f. In response to this concern, we suggest that #2 be reworded as follows: “Possess a wide knowledge of higher education as demonstrated by a series of appointments in teaching and administrative capacities that reach, as a minimum, dean’s level responsibilities.”
- g. This issue is addressed in the Mission Statement and Strategic Plan.
- h. We revised #5 to read, “Promote the University as a place where excellent teaching and national and international reputations for scholarship seamlessly coexist.”
- i. We believe the document sufficiently refers to the community.
- j. It was not deemed fruitful to raise this issue.
- k. We support these changes and entrust that our Chair can word-smith nicely.

3. Forum for Sharing Faculty Research with Trustees.

It was observed that the Senate Executive Committee recently learned that the Board doesn't have time for additional activities given their full schedules. We are assuming that they do not know what we do, when people noted that in their discussions with trustees they seem to have a great deal of knowledge about what is going on around the University. They have the ability to tap into faculty expertise as relevant. If the Trustees were even more involved in University workings than they are it could be over-reaching. In summary the sense of the group was to leave this informal on an as-needed basis.

4. **New letterhead:** People who were present noted that three student representatives were not included: Nicole Harmuth, Gilbert Morejon, Lindsey Waters

5. The item about evaluation of teaching was deferred.

6. Issues proposed by E. Kresch:

- a. Move from 14 to 13 week semester by adding 15 minutes per week to existing courses, which would actually add 25 more minutes to the semester. Potential problems in nursing courses and science labs were identified. Question was raised as to whether a class session would be dropped from the daily schedule as a result. The irregular schedule would be confusing and difficult to manage. Student Life professionals promote week-long breaks for mental health reasons.
- b. After discussion of the issue of how to know if students have signed the waiver enabling us to speak with their parents, we concur that it would be desirable to **ask the Registrar** of a student's disclosure waiver status could be noted on the class list, for handy referral if and when parents call. A. Lindenmeyr noted that this information is in Novasis; we do support making it more conveniently accessible by faculty.
- c. Limits on number of graduate courses: A. Lindenmeyr reported that the issue of undergraduate limits on graduate courses will be discussed at a meeting convened by the VPAA this week. E. Kresch would like to see the permission process streamlined. We note that exceptions can always be made for truly exceptional students. Concerns were raised about the work-load of graduate courses, within the student's typical 15 credit load. Faculty report that a large number of undergraduates within a graduate section changes the class dynamic. Benefits of students taking graduate courses include: different learning; learning what graduate study is like before going to graduate school; accelerating master's degree study in some cases.

7. Status of Librarian:

An initial response was yes, the Librarian should be a dean. But there are implications related to faculty status of the research librarians. We are aware that there are implications for student-faculty ratio and other US News type metrics though we are not clear about these. We suggest that this issue be on a future agenda and that J. Lucia be invited to discuss this issue with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy C. Sharts-Hopko