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| **Faculty Congress Minutes** |
| Faculty Congress Villanova University Meeting of March 22 4pm  Devon Room Connelly Center  Agenda 1. Welcome - Lillian Cassel, Vice Chair, Faculty Congress 2. Facultas Award - Q Chung and Bob Styer 3. Mid-career research support.  Susan Mackey-Kallis 4. University Pandemic Policy.  Nancy Sharts-Hopko 5. Adjunct Faculty Committee Report   John Groch 6.  Update on Referendum on Constitutional Ammendments - Frank Klassner 7.  Faculty Retirement Committee.  Rodger Van Allen 8.  COF Committee Report - Q Chung 9.  APC Committee Report - Bijan Mobasseri   Minutes: 2. The Facultas Award for Fall 2006 was given to Annetta Stowman.  She came to the meeting room without knowing the reason and was very clearly surprised and pleased by the award.    3.  Mid career research support -- Report deferred to subsequent meeting  4.  University Pandemic Policy report -- deferred to subsequent meeting  5.  Adjunct Faculty Committee Report.   The committee met with Fr. Peter on January 18 to summarize some pressing issues.  On January 25, Fr. Peter presented results of his efforts in response to the committee's concerns.   * Fr. Peter agrees that adjunct faculty should be fairly compensated * Fr. Peter spoke to HR and learned that there are no apparent reasons why adjunct faculty could not participate in the Villanova medical and pension plans by contributions. * There are issues with regard to the tuition benefit for the children of adjunct faculty and a question about eligibility for housing.  The tuition benefit is void if the child wants to have V. U. housing.  This will be taken up with Dr. Johannes. * On-going projects include recognition of excellent teaching by adjunct faculty.  Fr. Peter saw no reason why there could not be an award for adjunct teaching, awarded at the same time as the Lindback award.      + Further discussion on this point brought reference to the following note from meeting minutes of the Committee on Faculty:   "To the question about the feasibility of establishing a separate teaching excellent award for non-tenure track faculty members (similar to Provost’s Award at Penn), Dr. Johannes responded that it could be done but at the cost of other initiatives. He did not see its practical merit with such issues as equitability due to the different sizes of faculty in different categories."   + The members of the faculty congress agreed that establishment of an award in recognition of excellence in teaching for adjunct faculty is appropriate and desired.  The faculty congress passed the following motion unanimously:     - The Faculty Congress institutes the "Faculty Congress Adjunct Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching."     - The motion was made by Ed Kresch and seconded by Joe Schick     - The award will be funded by the Faculty Congress budget if no other source of funds is available.  The consensus was that the recognition is more important than the dollar amount of the award.     - The award will be administered by the same process used for the Lindback award.  It will begin with the cycle in 2007-2008 * Graduated pay scales for adjunct faculty with more years of service goes into effect in Fall 2007.  Fr. Peter supports the concept.  The implementation will be monitored by the Adjunct Faculty Committee. * The problem of the gap in pay between the end of the Fall semester and the beginning of the Spring semester has been addressed successfully.  Adjuncts now receive five pay checks in the Spring semester, beginning in January.   6.  Update on Referendum on Constitutional Amendments.       Frank Klassner reports that the proposed amendments do require a faculty vote.  It turns out that the election system currently used cannot be used for voting on these items.  The current voting system requires that each "candidate" be a name from the database.  A choice of "yes" or "no" cannot be used instead.  UNIT is working on instituting a new system that will allow for voting on ballot questions.  The system is expected to be available by Easter break and the voting on the proposed constitutional amendments can occur after Easter.  7.  Faculty Retirement Committee.       Rodger VanAllen reported on behalf of the committee, presenting the history of the recent proposal and its status.  Though the window plan has been denied, the committee is pursuing the matter of improved steady state retirement options.  This is an open issue at present, with two plans under discussion.  8.  COF Committee Report.      Q Chung presented a list of the activities of the Committee on Faculty for the academic year to date.  (to be attached)     Announcement:  Committee on Faculty will meet with Dr. Johannes on March 29 at 2pm in the Severance Room of the Jake Nevin fieldhouse.  Any member of the congress who wishes to participate in the discussion on endowed chairs is invited to attend.  9.  APC Report     Bijan Mobasseri reported that the committee has met four times this year.  Issues of discussion include   * exam scheduling - which has been resolved * Sabbaticals * Faculty exchange options.  This is to be dealt with on an individual basis rather than by a larger policy * Distance learning policy   + There are college level decisions about how distance students are counted.  In particular, is the distance group a separate section? * Endowed chairs - questions similar to those under discussion by COF * Grade due dates, in particular the summer and spring incompletes and when they must be resolved.  It turns out that an N grade can be continued indefinitely by simply giving an N grade again. * Question of outside work by faculty.  Outside consulting is accepted.  Outside teaching is not clear.  The possibility of distance teaching raises new issues.   The meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm  Minutes submitted by Boots Cassel |
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