



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY FACULTY CONGRESS
Academic Year 2015-2016

FACULTY CONGRESS MEETING
September 21, 2015

Present: Joseph Betz, Suzanne Clain, Jerusha Conner, Alice Dailey, Mark Doorley, Rick Eckstein, Diane Ellis, Ruth Gordon, Judith Hadley, Edward Kresch, Michael Levitan, Mike McGoldrick, Robert O'Neill, Paul Pasles, Salvatore Poeta, Lisa Sewell, Nancy Sharts-Hopko, Catherine Warrick, Thomas Way, Kelly Welch, Seth Whidden

Absent: Wayne Bremser, Linda Copel (NIA), Lillian Cassel (NIA), Frank Falcone, David Fiorenza(NIA), Paul Hanouna, Jeremy Kees, Julie Klein, Kenneth Kroos, Sarvesh Kulkarni(NIA), Mi Luo, Wenhong Luo, Susan Mackey-Kallis(on sabbatical), Joe Micucci(NIA), John Olson (NIA), Louise Russo (NIA), Katina Sawyer (NIA), Joyce Willens, Miron Wolnicki

Other Guests: *Bob Styer (University Senate)*

The meeting convened at 10:30AM in SAC 300.

Housekeeping

1. Welcome everyone to the 2015-2015 academic year
2. Minutes from the May 8, 2015 Reorganizational meeting were approved, with minor edits.

REPORTS:

1. Academic Policy Committee is meeting this week, focusing this year on the possibility of online CATS, a university core curriculum and a joint task force with COF on adjunct faculty. The Provost has expressed interest in the work of the subcommittee of APC on the university core curriculum.
2. Adjunct Faculty: Mike McGoldrick reported that their first newsletter has gone out. They are planning a social later this fall, and have sent out a survey to all adjuncts, seeking feedback on issues of concern to the faculty. Not surprisingly the main issues are pay and benefits. There is an expected divide between the graduate adjunct faculty in the professional schools and those in the undergraduate programs. This is due, largely, to the fact that for the graduate adjuncts, teaching is an avocation.
3. Awards Committee: The committee is investigating a few items. First, perhaps we ought to give out the Facultas Award only once a year, rather than twice, as we now do. Along with this, we are considering widening the eligibility requirements of the Facultas Award. Second, we give out four teaching awards at commencement, so the committee is considering ways to spread the selection process out over the full academic year, rather than merely the spring semester. These items sparked some discussion as feedback for the

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committee. The committee also asked for two volunteers from Faculty Congress. Members were asked to think about serving on this committee.

4. Committee on Faculty: The committee has not met yet. They will identify the issues to focus on this academic year. The FCEC has asked the committee to consider renaming itself in order to reduce confusion in the broader community. The suggested new name is the Freedom, Responsibilities, and Rights Committee. Discussion ensued with the result that the suggestion is now Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities.
5. CNT/FTNTTF Committee: Robert O'Neil reminded the body that a policy change on permitting CNT/FTNTTF a vote on their departmental chair was passed by the Faculty Congress over a year ago. The policy recommendation was sent to the VPAA who turned down the proposal. Faculty members in this status want to see some action on this proposal, now that there is a Provost's Office. Seth and Jerusha are meeting with the Provost soon and will bring this to his attention. Some discussion ensued.
6. Elections and Credentials: Bob Styer reported that elections for rank & tenure are open until this Friday. The committee would like to have the structure in place for Faculty Congress elections by the end of October. Allison Payne has agreed to chair this committee in the future. The committee is working to make the transition to new leadership smooth.
7. Employee Issues Committee (EIC): Jerusha reported that the EIC is considering joining the CoF with its new name, and functioning as an ad hoc committee of that body. Jerusha also announced that the University Senate approved a proposed policy revision on Parental Leave. This was sent to Fr. Peter Donohue, who is awaiting a proposal from Human Resources. Seth and Jerusha have reached out to the Benefits Committee, requesting that they be on the alert for this proposal. Faculty Congress members are encouraged to also reach out to the members of the Benefits Committee.
8. Retired Faculty Committee: Joe Betz reported that on September 29, 2015 at 11AM there will be a mass in memory of deceased former members of the faculty. Following the mass there will be the quarterly luncheon of retired faculty. All are invited. There will be a talk at 12:30PM by the scholar in charge of the project involving the large and valuable painting in the reading room of Falvey Library.

Old Business

1. Swearing and arming of campus security officers
 - a. The board of trustees will decide on this policy at their October 2015 meeting.

New Business

1. Guidelines for University Summer Grants
 - a. A draft of guidelines for the university summer grants was distributed to Faculty Congress members for their feedback. Discussion ensued on the draft. All comments should be directed to Jerusha who will collate them. All comments are due by October 1st.
2. Faculty Congress Development Grants:
 - a. Faculty Congress has some funds to support faculty development in areas related to governance. Three opportunities were distributed to the membership. The deadline for application for these funds is October 15, 2015. Catherine Warrick will coordinate this. The application form will be available on the Faculty Congress website or from Catherine or Seth.

3. Commendation for Fr. Kail Ellis, OSA on his tenure as Dean, CLAS, and Vice President of Academic Affairs. Discussion ensued on a draft document. After some editing, a motion was made to adopt the commendation, seconded, unanimous approval. This will be forward to Fr. Ellis and to Fr. Donohue. The commendation is attached in the appendix.
4. Parking renovation in SAC. A number of complaints from faculty have come to Seth and Jerusha. After discussion with the FCEC it was agreed that there are more pressing issues for the Congress to address than this one. However, faculty with concerns are encouraged to approach Dean Lindenmeyr. The university has made an extra shuttle available to bring faculty from the Main Lot, and all the spaces behind Kennedy Hall are now designated for people with handicaps.
5. The University Senate voted to dissolve the Senate. However, this was not a vote with a quorum, so it is being sent to the President of the University as a “sense of the Senate.” Fr. Donohue will pass this along to the Board of Trustees who alone have the authority to disband the Senate. Discussion ensued. It is clear from the Senate discussion that although the vote was to disband, there is a desire to find other ways to insure representation in university governance for students and staff. Some ideas include to make use of the Faculty Congress to facilitate that for staff and students. It was pointed out that in May 2014 a quorum-less Senate expressed a similar “sense of the Senate” in support of a reorganizational plan for the Senate. Its status is unclear. In effect, the future of the Senate is in the hands of Fr. Donohue and the Board.
6. Faculty Congress members who are in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences met with the Dean. At that meeting she identified some issues she would like Faculty Congress to work on and make recommendations about:
 - a. Faculty teaching load assignments, and a rationale for it
 - b. Research support enhancements
 - c. Some similar departments have significantly different guidelines for rank & tenure. Are there ways to address this.
7. Alice Lethe, director of Environmental Health & Safety in the Facilities Division of the university, spoke to the Congress about her position, and identified areas of concern, and how faculty can assist her office. The question of mold in SAC was raised and Congress was assured that the problem will be addressed.

Additional Reports

Board of Trustees Standing Committees

- A. University Communication (Gordon Coonfield and Sarah-Vaughan Brakman): minutes from their last meeting are attached as an appendix.

Committees that report directly to the President

- A. President’s Environmental Sustainability Committee (PESC)

In partnership with the Environmental Health and Safety and representatives from labs at Villanova, the Office of Sustainability has initiated the Green Labs Certification program. Green Lab certification gives recognition to those who are helping to make their lab area safer for people and the environment. The certification is meant to unite all three efforts to improve lab safety and sustainability without compromising lab productivity. Labs that achieve Green

Lab certification will complete an eight category checklist, and implement enough sustainable and safety changes to meet the program requirements. All research and classroom labs are eligible for Green Lab certification.

So far, we have had two labs achieve certification:

- Mendel 012 & 014: Nancy Peltier (Biology)
- Mendel G09: Lindsay Whitelock (Biology)

Meeting adjourned at Noon.

Respectfully Submitted by
Mark Doorley, FC Secretary

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

Monday, October 21, 10:30 - Noon

Thursday, November 19, 12 – 1:30PM

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Appendix I

University Communications/Relations Committee April 13, 2015 Minutes submitted to Faculty Congress

The meeting of the University Communication and University Relations committees focused on three areas: external relations, alumni relations, and the communication challenge Villanova faces with the change to the Doctoral/Research Carnegie category.

First, there was a presentation on the work of the University Relations Committee. Chris Kovolski, the Associate Vice President for Government Relations and External Affairs presented the organizational chart and summarized the activities of his office, which include taking a proactive approach to creating and maintaining relationships at the local, regional, state, and federal levels of government. At the local level, this includes the Friends of Villanova Program (which allows our neighbors access to facilities), event participation and sponsorship, resource sharing, community service initiatives (like the Day of Service), and regular meetings to encourage communication with Villanova's neighbors (which has since led to the approval of Villanova's Lancaster expansion). Similarly, at the regional level, Villanova's involvement in the World Meeting of Families, with the area Chambers of Commerce, and with the City of Philadelphia Mayor's Office of Education are examples of the ongoing work of the office. At the state and federal levels, the Office is working to build relationships to the alumni working in government as elected officials, as aids and support staff, and in policy and non-profit sectors.

The second agenda item was a presentation by George Kolb, Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations. Besides discussing the usual alumni events, Kolb discussed the One Book Villanova program and the efforts of a task force to better engage and maintain connections with alumni of color. It was tacitly acknowledged that this will play a role in the University's effort to attract and retain a more diverse student body, which is a key component of the University's strategic plan.

The final item was a presentation from Anne Diebold, Vice President for University Communication. The main point of discussion was Villanova's reclassification to the "Doctoral/Research" category. Diebold predicted Villanova would premier in this category somewhere in the 45-55 range when the various media rankings (e.g U.S. News and World Report) are published. Diebold stated that communication challenge concerns distinguishing ourselves from competitors and managing the kinds of comparisons and other messaging problems to which this new ranking will give rise. She noted that we had gotten by on the "#1" messaging for a long time, but now we face the challenge of thinking more carefully about communicating our distinctive value in the marketplace of perceptions. The committee's discussion of Diebold's presentation was primarily focused on outrage about the coming ranking change and concern over the impact it will have on the way alumni, parents, potential students, and supporters perceive Villanova, rather than focusing on the looming messaging challenge Diebold was reporting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted: Gordon Coonfield (Communication), Sarah Vaughan-Brakman (Philoso