



Villanova University Faculty Congress
Academic Year 2016-2018

FACULTY CONGRESS MEETING
February 2, 2018

Present: Joseph Betz, Jerusha Conner, Mirela Damian, Angela DiBenedetto, Jennifer Dixon, Rick Eckstein, Ruth Gordon, Marylu Hill, Stephanie Katz, Christopher Kilby, Rory Kramer, Michael Levitan, Eric Lomazoff, Joseph Micucci, Alan Pichanick, Salvatore Poeta, Rees Rankin, Kelly Welch.

Absent: Aronté Bennett, Sheryl Bowen (on sabbatical), Danai Chasaki (NIA), Sohail Chaudhry (NIA), Gordon Coonfield (NIA), Alice Dailey, (NIA), Diane Ellis, David Fiorenza (NIA), Shelly Howton (on sabbatical), Jeremy Kees (NIA), Peggy Lyons (NIA), Mike McGoldrick, Elizabeth Petit de Mangé (NIA), James Peyton-Jones (on sabbatical), Michael Posner, Quinetta Roberson, Jennifer Ross (on sabbatical), Joseph Schick (NIA), Catherine Warrick (NIA), Mark Wilson (NIA), Dennis Wykoff (on sabbatical), Rosalind Wynne, Tina Yang (NIA).

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

Housekeeping

1. Minutes from the November 27, 2017 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved unanimously pending the addition of NIAs.
2. **Update on classroom concerns and other news from the Provost:** Jerusha noted that she would save the update from the Provost until later in the meeting.

Discussion of Standing Committee Reports:

In an effort to better focus the discussion of the FC, members are now asked to read the committee reports (appended to the agenda) rather than spending time in the FC meeting reviewing all of the committee reports. Members are asked to identify issues from within the report that need to be elevated to full discussion.

At this point, Jerusha asked if there are issues to raise for further discussion from the standing committees or whether there was any new business to report or add.

A question was raised about the “Administrative Sabbatical Policy” mentioned in the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee report. A FRRRC committee member offered some clarification; the Administrative Sabbatical Policy is a sabbatical offered to faculty moving out of administration

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(department chair, e.g.), and back into teaching and research. It was noted that this policy formalizes what has been an informal policy.

Joe Betz noted that retired faculty continue to be worried about parking availability, but Public Safety has been very kind in helping them park.

Jerusha flagged two items in the committee reports. First, regarding Elections and Credentials, she announced that neither she nor Catherine Warrick will continue in their present roles as chair and vice-chair of Faculty Congress, nor will they seek re-election. She hoped that someone else in the Congress will step up for those positions. The bylaws specify that elections for the chair and vice chair must be held by March 15, with elections for the Congress to follow, and she urged FC members to self-nominate or to nominate colleagues to serve.

Second, Jerusha highlighted the new awards announced through the Awards Committee. She urged FC members to spread the word about these new awards, and she reassured the members that all technical issues regarding the web links have been fixed. She also mentioned that all nominations submitted through the electronic links should receive a confirmation receipt. If no receipt is received, please re-submit.

A concern was raised that nominations were lost in the past due to faults in the electronic submission form, but the representative from the awards committee reassured FC members that there should be a confirmation email if the nomination was received.

Several other committee reports received commentary. There was a brief discussion of the APC's continuing work on the electronic CATS, including whether the CATs comments can be relayed any quicker to faculty. There was also a brief discussion of continuing concerns about the fall 2017 pilot of the diversity questions on the CATS.

A representative from the Budget Committee shared some of the multi-year budget projections provided by the Provost's office to the Committee. The representative noted that while most major university expenses (e.g., salaries, food costs, utilities) are scheduled to increase at average rates ranging from 2.3% to 4.4% per year over the next five years, the library's budget is projected to increase at an average rate of just 0.7% per year during that same period. A brief discussion ensued regarding concerns over the Library budget. A question was raised as to what FC can do to influence budget conversations. The representative suggested that FC members look at the IPEDS webpage (<https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/find-your-college>) to see the University spending in past years.

Jerusha noted the Provost has explained that more dollars were being directed toward academic needs, but the full amount of identified needs had not been met. Out of \$9.3 million academic needs, only 4.2 million have been met. This budget anticipates only 3.5 to 3.7 million of academic needs being met this coming year. Inevitably, choices will be made as to which needs/wants must be deferred. Regarding classroom concerns, this summer 10 of the 20 classrooms identified by faculty survey as being substandard will be renovated. The Provost expressed appreciation for the help of Faculty Congress in identifying problematic classrooms.

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Old Business

1. **Follow up HERI analysis:** It was noted that VU faculty are less satisfied with their teaching loads compared to peer institutions. Suggestions were offered for using these data to inform discussions about teaching loads with the administration, including gathering data on job candidates who turn down offers from Villanova due to teaching load. These data could be gathered from department chairs and search committees and by conducting exit interviews with candidates.
2. **Best practices for chairs working with adjuncts:** There was a brief discussion of a draft memo addressing best practices for chairs working with adjuncts. In order to gather more information about the adjunct population and their needs, a survey has been prepared and will be conducted very soon, under the leadership of Joseph Micucci and Michael McGoldrick. We encourage broad participation by contingent faculty in this confidential survey.

New Business:

Michael Levitan, AAUP representative, presented a draft resolution about the targeted harassment of faculty via social media and other means. This resolution comes in the wake of recent unsettling developments regarding professors at other institutions who have been targeted by extremists. Concerns were raised about what was within the jurisdiction of FC to recommend. It was noted that there is a need to address student behavior concerning possible harassment. A lively discussion ensued about what proposals should be included in the resolution, including recommendations to changes in the student handbook, and how best to provide a process to protect faculty from harassment. FC members were invited to submit suggested edits, and the resolution was referred to FRRC for further discussion

Jerusha reminded the members that the next meeting is March 14 at which FC will vote for chair and vice-chair. She also noted that May 4 is the re-organization meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by Marylu Hill, Faculty Congress Secretary

March 11, 2018