

Faculty Congress Meeting Minutes
2/20/23

Present: Amanda Knecht, Bridget Wadzuk, Cheryl Carleton, Col. Vincent Ciuccoli, Gerald Beyer, Gregory Hoskins, Jared Paul, Jennifer Altamuro, Jennifer Ross, Joe Betz, John Sedunov, Joseph Drury (Vice Chair), Kamran Javadizadeh, Kathryn Haymaker (Chair), Kerry San Chirico, Lisa Sewell, Mark Wilson, Paul Bernhardt, Qi Wang, Rachel Skrlac Lo, Sergey Nersesov, Stephanie Katz Linkmeyer, Sue Metzger, Theodore Arapis

Absent: Ann Juliano, Aronte Bennet, David Shaffer, Eric Hamberger, Farshid Baghai, Frank Pryor, Jeremy Kees, John-Paul Spiro, Justinus Satrio, Michelle Kelly, Michelle McKay (sabbatical), Raka Shome, Samantha Chapman, Sherry Burrell, Tina Agustiady, Troy Shirangi, William Wagner

Guests: Alice Daily, Andrew Scott, Bob Styer, Christopher Kilby

Standing Committee Reports

1. Awards Committee – Awards approved; Katie will send them to the President’s office
2. CNT/FTNTT – Sue Metzger reported enthusiasm for the salary review and the upcoming vote on department chair voting rights for CNT at FRRC
3. Research Committee – Joe D reported having contacted Amanda Grannas about the possibility of additional support for personal websites. Amanda says it is not currently possible to apply for funds for a personal website, but that she’d be open to discussing it.
4. FRRC – Amanda K referred everyone to the Appendix for her report and announced the upcoming meeting on CNTs voting for chairs

Committees with Faculty Representation

APC – Bridget Wadzuk reported that APC voted to allow any full-time faculty associate rank or higher to chair APC

Old Business

1. Constitution Committee – Bob Styer provided a summary of the major proposals still to be voted on, including the reduction of the at-large seats from 6 to 1, with the at-large seats mainly absorbed into members of the Athletics, Budget, Mission and Social Justice, Student Life committees, and the 1 remaining set aside for an adjunct. One FC member expressed concern that he couldn’t see a place for himself in FC if the proposed changes were introduced, since he was an at-large member of FC who was neither an adjunct nor a full-time faculty member – he is on a three-year contract as the head of the department

of Naval Science (ROTC). A member of the constitution revision committee explained that the purpose of reducing the number of at-large faculty members was to make it easier to fill the committees. An FC member suggested expanding the number of at-large spots to make room for another adjunct (though another adjunct is included as a member of APC). Katie H proposed a vote on whether FC should recommend the Constitution Committee to find a way to increase the number of at-large members, seconded by Kerry San Chirico and Jared Paul. Vote was approved. A member of the constitution revision committee raised the question of whether people on short-term contracts should be typically allowed to serve on FC, given that there is currently a requirement that faculty should have worked for at least three years at Villanova before serving on FC. Amanda Knecht agreed that it was important for FRRC to have members who knew the institution so that they felt able to vote on the important matters that were presented to them. Others suggested that the three-year requirement could be reduced to one year, since it was not necessarily a problem to have members who were still learning about the institution. Joe D proposed that we take up this issue at the next meeting.

New Business

1. Divestment Town Hall

Joe D reported on the town hall event that took place on January 27, reported that SGA had passed a resolution calling on the university to divest entirely from companies engaged in the extraction of fossil fuels.

He asked FC whether there was support for FC passing its own resolution on divestment – FC agreed that there was, and Lisa Sewell volunteered to help with the language on the resolution.

2. Teaching Loads

Katie H reported that several constituents had expressed dissatisfaction with the way the university was going about meeting the Middle States recommendation that “research-active” faculty should teach no more than a 2-2 teaching load.

It was reported that in Theology/Religious Studies, any faculty who advised doctoral students get a 2-2 teaching load.

Another member expressed concern that advising doctoral students not be the only method for establishing whether a faculty member was deserving of a course release, and reported that faculty in Chemistry were discussing how best to distribute workloads, given how much time many of them spent on advising and mentoring undergraduate students.

A colleague in nursing reported that in Nursing the goal is for all research-active tenured and TT faculty to teach a 12-credit load, but that there was some debate about advising, since there were faculty members doing a lot of PhD advising who had the same teaching load as those who did not.

Another colleague said that she would appreciate the opportunity to teach only 2 courses a semester as it was impossible to do any research when teaching 3 courses.

Another member said that course credits should be given to faculty if they can prove that they have done a certain number of hours of advising outside of class.

A colleague pointed out that there was a university policy saying that a faculty who has taught 10 independent studies may apply to receive a course release.

An FC member suggested that departments set the standards for what is appropriate in order to be considered research-active and allocate teaching loads accordingly. It was reported that in his department (Public Admin) faculty were applying for course reductions for research but were being rejected by the dean's office for reasons that were unclear.