



Villanova University Faculty Congress  
Academic Year 2016-2018

FACULTY CONGRESS MEETING  
November 27, 2017

In attendance: Jerusha Conner (chair), Catherine Warrick (vice-chair), Rick Eckstein (treasurer, secretary *pro-tem* I), Christopher Kilby, Sheryl Bowen, Sohail Chaudhry, Alice Dailey, Mirela Damien, Mike McGoldrick, Joseph Micucci, Joe Schick, Aronte Bennett, Joe Betz, Mike Levitan, Rees Rankin, Tim Brunk (observer).

**Absent:** Gordon Coonfield, Angela DiBenedetto, Jennifer Dixon (on leave), Diane Ellis (NIA), David Fiorenza (NIA), Ruth Gordon, Marylu Hill (NIA), Shelly Howton (NIA), Stephanie Katz (NIA), Jeremy Kees, Rory Kramer (NIA), Eric Lomazoff (NIA), Peggy Lyons, Elizabeth Petit de Mangé (NIA), James Peyton-Jones (on leave), Alan Pichanick (NIA), Salvatore Poeta (NIA), Michael Posner (NIA), Quinetta Roberson, Jennifer Ross, Kelly Welch (NIA), Mark Wilson (NIA), Dennis Wykoff (NIA), Rosalind Wynne, Tina Yang (NIA)

1. There were some brief amendments to the **October minutes**, which Christopher Kilby has passed along to the secretary.

2. Congress and its constituents were asked to keep indicating classroom troubles via the link here:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ACmOYvSpXdrFo0xx-5bXakCnaAp8CE9e1fyX1akoxE8/edit>

3. **Strategic Plan.** The FCEC has submitted suggestions to the Provost and McKinsey team based on feedback received from faculty. The document can be found here:  
<https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/facultycongress/feedback/feedback-on-2018-university-strategic-plan.html>

4. The FCEC urged Congress representatives to help diversify attendance at Faculty Fridays by purposefully inviting colleagues who have not attended in the past.

5. The Awards Committee has made its recommendation for the Fall 2017 Facultas Award. The recommendation is provisional for one week, during which time members with any concerns should raise their objections with Mirela Damian or any member of the Awards Committee or the FCEC.

6. The FCEC will send out to all adjuncts a summary of information concerning their legal rights as contingent workers, including their right to collective bargaining.

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7. **Academic Policy Committee** (Christopher Kilby). As of now, the pilot CATS questions on “classroom racial sensitivity” will only be analyzed at the anonymous aggregate level, not by course or individual instructor. Pilot participants will be selected using a random sample rather than the previously endorsed volunteering method. The APC is split on the wisdom of this sampling technique. One reservation was the possibility of cross-question contamination when the racial sensitivity questions do appear.

8. **Faculty Rights & Responsibilities** (Alice Dailey). There will soon be official announcement and publication of a new policy on faculty-student romantic relationships. In a nutshell, the prohibition against these relationships will be much broader.

9. There was a spirited discussion about the appropriate boundaries for Faculty Congress, especially concerning “controversial” issues that do not seem directly related to teaching, research, and service. There was something of a consensus that the university mission statement compels all community members, and especially faculty, to be “woke” about potential threats to the school’s moral and ethical foundation. The Congress (as a whole) will consider these sorts of issues on a case by case basis and decide whether or not it wishes to become involved or not.

10. **Villanovans against Sweatshops**. After another spirited discussion (see #9 above) Congress *passed the following resolution unanimously with one abstention*:

WHEREAS the Apostolic Constitution Ex Corde Ecclesiae requires Catholic institutions of higher learning to teach the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (Part II, art. 4 §5) and to promote social justice (Part I, B, §34), which includes just wages (Encyclical Laborem Exercens, no. 8);

WHEREAS the principle of shared governance in the university setting allows for and requires the faculty to “discuss all matters of interest to the faculty, and, where appropriate [to pass] resolutions expressing its opinion on such matters” (Constitution of the Faculty Congress, art. 1 sec. 2);

BE IT RESOLVED THAT VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY’S FACULTY CONGRESS ENDORSES THAT:

(1) Villanova requests Nike sign a university “labor standards and corporate responsibility” agreement similar to those signed with the University of Washington and Georgetown University; we applaud the President’s moves in this direction;

(2) the university sever its contractual agreement with Nike if it refuses to sign this agreement;

(3) the university constitute a Fair Labor Oversight Committee (FLOC) charged with ensuring that all Villanova licensees agree to fair labor standards.

BE IT FURTHER RECOMMENDED BY THE FACULTY CONGRESS THAT:

(1) the FLOC follow the protocol of the standing University committees in its composition and appointments;

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(2) the FLOC develop official written guidelines on labor standards and corporate responsibility that can inform the university's contracts with all outside vendors, including but not limited to Nike;

(3) the FLOC by-laws be submitted to the University Council for discussion and approval.

**11. Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) data.** FCEC members highlighted some of data they felt were most salient to further discussion. The Congress was encouraged to review the distributed items, share findings with their constituents, and inform the FCEC of any results that require our collective attention or further analysis.

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