

Meeting of the Villanova University Academic Policy Committee

Tuesday, October 22, 2013
SAC 300, 10:00 am

MINUTES

Present: Louise Russo (chair), Paul Pasles, Bob Styer, Wenhong Luo, Craig Wheeland, Mary Ann Cantrell, Lesley Perry, Paul Hanouna, Ken Kroos, Adele Lindenmeyr, Jerusha Conner, Daniel Wright, Joseph Brady

Not in Attendance: Fayette Veverka, Joyce Willens (NIA), Kelly Welch (NIA), Wayne Bremser (NIA), Jutta Seibert (NIA), Edwin Goff, Randy Weinstein, Mark Doorley (NIA), Catherine Warrick (NIA), Susan Mackey-Kallis, Sridhar Santhanam, JeanAnn Linney, Jillian Amera, Lourdes Carrera-Ortiz, Laura Boisclair, Erin Connor, Patrick Tempera, Elizabeth Carbone, Caitlyn Sell, Brian Gallagher

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am

Minutes from the meeting on September 17th reviewed and approved.

- I. The first order of business was a discussion of tentative agenda items for the spring semester. Based upon a range of imminent issues related to the near-term transition of the institution to a National Research Standing, members discussed and agreed upon topics that should be focal opportunities for the APC to make contributions as the University strategically plans for this critical event. Primary discussion items as related to the institutional category change included:
 - a) an APC proposal to develop a University Curriculum Committee: this super committee would be a point source for discussion of curricular initiatives and program development concepts so that broader cross-college impacts could be addressed earlier in the decision making process.
 - b) establishment of a University-wide core curriculum: though a *de facto* core exists based upon inclusion of ACS 1000 and ACS 1001, and Theology 1000 as core humanities courses across all colleges, this actually represents an elemental core by default rather than plan and it is not in fact a “mandatory” curriculum across all colleges. Should the APC explore establishment of a real core curriculum that has a clear purpose but does not impinge upon the need for each college to have flexibility in long term curricular planning to meet accreditation demands, competitive advantage, etc?
 - c) with the impending change in institutional status, is it time to make changes in the Honors offerings and focus: should an Honors College model be considered as opposed to maintaining an Honors Program?

- d) should the University be more flexible in calendar planning: is it desirable to provide a winter interim term for example that permits creative course additions (including online offerings) within a four week interval over winter break?

Members agreed that these four issues should all be work plan topics for the APC in the spring 2014 session. All of them are relevant to the University status transition. Based upon the diversity of topics and the short time frame, the chair will organize members into working sub-committees. Proposed work groups will be presented at the December meeting.

II. Adele Lindenmeyr suggested that Jim Trainer, Executive Director of OPIR, be invited to join the APC at the December meeting to give an overview presentation about the institution transition to a National Research category similar to the one he shared at a recent meeting with Senior Leaders. The chair will contact Fr. Peter to ascertain if Jim Trainer can provide that same information with the APC.

III. The committee continued discussion of the Online BA for Adult Part-time Students in light of a detailed email communication that Fr. Ellis sent to the chair in response to direct inquiries about final decisions and procedural plans for implementation of all of the Task Force resolutions. Fr. Ellis' response email is attached to these minutes as part of the APC meeting record. Members reviewed Fr. Ellis' responses in detail. No immediate motions related to the VPAA's plan for implementation were raised. However general sentiment reflected a desire for continued APC review and engagement in the degree roll-out process.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Russo

Members of APC: Louise Russo (chair), Wayne Bremser, Fayette Veverka, Robert Styer, Adele Lindenmeyr, Edwin Goff, Kelly Welch, Mary Ann Cantrell, Louise Fitzpatrick (represented by Lesley Perry), Joyce S. Willens, Wenhong Luo, Paul Pasles, Paul Hanouna, Kail Ellis (represented by Craig Wheeland), Jean Ann Linney, Gary Gabriele (represented by Randy Weinstein), Patrick Maggitti (represented by Daniel Wright), Catherine Warrick, Susan Mackey-Kallis, Mark Doorley, Sridhar Santhanam, Kenneth Kroos, Aaron Moore, Jutta Seibert, Lourdes Carrera-Ortiz, Joseph Brady, Laura Boisclair, Erin Connor, Patrick Tempera, Elizabeth Carbone, Caitlyn Sell, Brian Gallagher