



VILLANOVA
UNIVERSITY

FACULTY CONGRESS

16 September 2009

Present: Akoma, Brody, Buckley, Cassel, Chaudhry, Chung, Japardze, Karson, Kelley, Klein, Kresch, Kulkarni, Mackey-Kallis, Modena, Pagano, Papaefthymiou-Davis, Prusak, Schick, Shai, Sharts-Hopko, Sullivan, Veverka, Wang, Way

Absent: Ahmadi, Bremser, Copel, Dellapena, DeMaskey, Doyle, Farrell, Graham, Groch, Inati, McLaughlin, McWilliams, Ott, Paparella, Poeta, Whidden, Willens, Zamani

Guests: Drs. Eckstein and Levitan

1. Members of the Congress and guests introduced themselves.
2. Secretary – Joe Schick agreed to do the job.
3. Presentation by Michael Levitan re AAUP at Villanova
 - Outline of history from organization in 1913
 - The Villanova chapter was founded in 1941
 - Long history of protecting faculty and strengthening education
 - AAUP is a professional organization rather than a union
 - Available to every faculty person regardless of membership
 - Why Villanova faculty should be interested in joining:
 - We have continually expanding responsibilities
 - The growth in full-time non-tenure-track faculty
 - Rapid changes to the faculty handbook
 - There are 28 members – need more and younger members
 - There was further discussion about the need among the committee. There was also discussion of whether or not there is a sense of unity among chapters in the Philadelphia area, in addition to the Pennsylvania organization. The state-wide AAUP is well-known, it was not known whether there is a Philadelphia regional group.
 - The members of the congress thanked Dr. Levitan for the presentation and discussion
4. The Faculty Handbook update
 - Handbook revision update – two years process
 - First request was to get revision fast
 - After revision and review by CoF/APC put out to faculty
 - Reaction and a forum
 - Discussion over summer between FC and J Johannes
 - Last meeting was this week

- Open forum to be held on 27 October 2:30 – 4pm
 - VPAA will be there
 - University lawyers will be asked to attend to address questions about legal details
- Questions raised in discussion included:
 - Who revises and what is procedure? In the current revision, the VPAA works in consultation with the Committee on Faculty. It is also stated that no changes will be made without faculty involvement, except under extreme circumstances.
 - Can faculty have more involvement, such as requiring changes to be approved by the faculty or a representative body? The discussion resulted in a motion.

Motion:
 Recognizing the cooperative process that has occurred, Faculty Congress recommends that any substantive revisions of the faculty handbook require the approval of the Faculty Congress.
The motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

5. Parking report – Dr. Eckstein

- An *ad hoc* committee was created by the University Senate and made a report to the Senate at the final meeting of the 2008-2009 academic year. The discussion was tabled and then picked-up again at the first meeting of the current year, on 11 September. The committee recommendations included a point that parking registrations fees be suspended or eliminated for two years based on a cost/benefit analysis. After some discussion in the Senate, the recommendation was turned down. There was some discussion after the meeting that indicated further support for the motion could have been gained had a tiered parking fee be created.
- Discussion in the Faculty Congress centered on the tiered fee structure and which committee would be the best place to begin this discussion. The Faculty Congress, Staff Council, and the Mission and Social Justice Committee of the University Senate appear to be the natural choices.
- Additional discussion focused on the Parking Appeals Committee and the need to choose new members. Rick Eckstein had already volunteered for this duty. Further discussion then led to a motion to separate the executive and judicial powers of the committee by having the chair of the committee not be involved directly with Public Safety. A motion was the result.

Motion

Faculty Congress moves that the Parking Appeals Committee be chaired by a member of the faculty or staff not associated with public safety.

Separation of executive power from judicial power

The motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

- The committee members thanked Rick for the presentation and discussion.
6. Retirement Policy
 - a. It was reported that discussions with Jack Johannes resulted in an invitation to have faculty input on the current policy. How does the faculty perceive the current policy? Is it at all useful? Is there an idea for a change that would not make the policy significantly more expensive?
 7. Replacement of the VPAA
 - a. Likely open forum to discuss what we need, would like to see in this position
 - b. Faculty positions on the Search Committee

Drs. Cassel and McWilliams met with Fr. Donohue September 16, 2009. From the discussion it was learned that nothing would move until after discussion at a meeting of the Board of Trustees. It was also stated that choosing the right person for the job takes priority over speed in filling this position. Also, it was stated that there will be time for open discussion about the requirements of the position. Drs. Cassell and McWilliams requested that faculty involvement be vetted through the elected committees and learned that there is openness to the having a faculty forum during this process.
 8. Middle States Self Study
 - a. Faculty section
 - Dr. Styer is co-chair of the group writing the Faculty section of the report. Dr. Cassel is member of this committee also.
 - There will be focus groups and interviews. The members of Faculty Congress are requested to encourage people in our areas to participate in this process.
 9. Committee reports
 - a. APC – no meeting yet
 - b. COF – report forwarded
 - c. Awards – just formed, no meeting yet
 10. Priorities for the coming year
 - a. Communication
 - b. FTNTTF and Adjunct faculty issues

11. New business

- a. Can Adjunct faculty buy into benefits? This was discussion was postponed for the next meeting.
- b. Issues around the choice of World Travel as Villanova's official travel agent. The fact that no faculty body was involved in this choice was the major point of discussion. CoF is gathering data for discussion and action. Some examples were discussed. This discussion will also be taken up with the Fr. Donohue.
- c. This semester, the period between last day of exams and the date the grades are due is very short because of a short period between the end of the fall semester and the beginning of the spring semester. After some discussion it was decided that the Academic Policy Committee, which oversees the calendar with Dr. Johannes, be charged to meet and consider changes, such as expanding class time by five minutes and reduce the number of weeks in a semester by one (same total class hours), that would prevent this issue from occurring in the future.

12. Meeting schedule for the semester

- a. September 16
- b. October 22
- c. December 1