**V I L L A N O V A   U N I V E R S I T Y**

F A C U L T Y   C O N G R E S S

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March 22, 2023
11:30 am to 1:00 pm
via Zoom: https://villanova.zoom.us/j/94432808002

AGENDA

**Present:** Tina Agustiady, Jennifer Altamuro, Theodore Arapis, Paul Bernhardt, Joe Betz, Cheryl Carleton, Kerry San Chirico, Col. Vincent Ciuccoli, Joseph Drury, Kathryn Haymaker, Gregory Hoskins, Ann Juliano, Stephanie Katz Linkmeyer, Jeremy Kees, Amanda Knecht, Sue Metzger, Sergei Nersesov, Jared Paul, John Sedunov, David Shaffer, Bridget Wadzuk, Qi Wang, Mark Wilson

**Absent:** Farshid Baghai, Aronte Bennet, Gerald Beyer, Sherry Burrell, Samantha Chapman, Eric Hamberger, Kamran Javadizadeh, Michelle Kelly, Rachel Skrlac Lo, Michelle McKay, Frank Pryor, Jennifer Ross, Lisa Sewell, Troy Shirangi, Raka Shome, John-Paul Spiro, William Wagner

**Housekeeping**

- Welcome

- Approval of minutes from January 2023 and February 2023 meetings

*Minutes Approved*

**Announcements**

1. *On Wednesday, April 12, at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom, the Provost's Office will host a panel for faculty on the risks and rewards of maintaining a public social media presence as an academic and Villanova professor. Moderated by Dr. Alice Dailey (director of Faculty Affairs), the panel will include Dr. Glenn Bracey and Dr. Jill McCorkel (Sociology and Criminology), Dr. Massimo Faggioli (Theology), Dr. Michael Moreland (Law), Dr. Billie Murray (Communication), Dr. Stephen Strader (Geography and the Environment) and Jon Gust and Krissy Woods (University Communications and PR).*
2. Faculty training Session with Public Safety for Response to Active Emergencies on Campus (with Deb Patch and Steven Germano)
    - Monday, March 27, 10am – 11am, Zoom (https://villanova.zoom.us/j/92808358930)
    - Tuesday, March 28, 11:30am – 12:30pm, in person, Mendel 101
    - Prior to attending either session, it is recommended to view the following:

Amanda Knecht, Ann Juliano, Aronte Bennet, Bridget Wadzuk, Cheryl Carleton, Col. Vincent Ciuccoli, David Shaffer, Eric Hamberger, Farshid Baghai, Frank Pryor, Gerald Beyer, Gregory Hoskins, Jared Paul, Jennifer Altamuro, Jennifer Ross, Jeremy Kees, Joe Betz, John Sedunov, John-Paul Spiro, Joseph Drury (Vice Chair), Justinus Satrio, Kamran Javadizadeh, Kathryn Haymaker (Chair), Kerry San Chirico, Lisa Sewell, Mark Wilson, Michelle Kelly, Michelle McKay, Paul Bernhardt, Qi Wang, Rachel Skrlac Lo, Raka Shome, Samantha Chapman, Sergey Nersesov, Sherry Burrell, Stephanie Katz Linkmeyer, Sue Metzger, Theodore Arapis, Tina Agustiady, Troy Shirangi, William Wagner

> > > i. Emergency Preparedness, Nova
> > >    Alert　https://ww1.villanova.edu/content/university/public-safety/emergency-procedures.html
> > > ii. Active Shooter Video　　　https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKJv3LMkh3c

3. Faculty will receive emails with information about the *Triennial National Survey of College and University Faculty* conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at the University of California – Los Angeles (UCLA) – reminders will be sent to faculty over the next few weeks about completing the survey (Katie)
4. Computer refresh update: faculty computer refresh is scheduled to occur around Summer 2023 (Katie)
5. At a prior meeting, it was noted that it would be helpful to have a way to get faculty up to speed when they join FC. Turns out there was a handbook for new members created in 2018, see here: https://villanova-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/khaymake_villanova_edu/EXkc89Go0vZGvSdrlsxPyj0BhNeeBhD_yxqaJBe7sVhH1w?e=cdDYCz . There are parts that are out of date and we will update it for the 2024 FC election.

**Standing Committee Reports** *(reports submitted in advance; please see appendix; this time set aside for elevated issues and/or questions)*
1. Awards Committee (Andrew Scott [chair, external member], Sherry Burrell)
2. Adjunct Faculty Representatives (Tina Agustiady, Eric Hamberger)
3. CNT/FTNTT Faculty Representatives (Frank Pryor, Sue Metzger, John-Paul Spiro)
4. Election and Credentials Committee (Q Chung, Jen Palenchar, Qi Wang, Bob Styer [emeritus])
5. Research Policy Committee (RPC; Jared Paul, chair)
6. Faculty Rights & Responsibilities Committee (FRRC; Amanda Knecht, chair)
   *See Appendix A and new business*

*FRRC has submitted language to the Provost's office to amend the Faculty Handbook regarding Universal Lecture Capture.*

7. Retired faculty members (Joe Betz)

**Committees with Faculty Representation** *(reports submitted in advance; please see appendix; this time set aside for elevated issues and/or questions)*

1. Academic Policy Committee (Bridget Wadzuk, chair)

2. Learning Management Systems committee (Bridget)

*There have been faculty listening sessions on the forthcoming decision on a LMS, and that feedback has been collotated. Blackboard, Canvas, and D2L are the three finalists and have been invited to provide product demonstrations. These will be recorded and made available. Faculty will be invited to see the presentations in mid April, and 20 faculty members have been selected to participate this summer in trials.*

**Old Business**
1. Faculty Congress Constitution suggestions (Stef Katz Linkmeyer) – see attachment

*There was a lengthy discussion of including a permanent seat for NROTC, though concern was expressed about the willingness of future NROTC leadership and the prospect of vacant seats. Related to this, there was also discussion of eliminating the minimum service requirement of 3 terms for at-large seats, given that NROTC Colonels are at VU for only 3 years. Other revisions under discussion included adding the*

*Research Policy Committee to FC in the Constitution, removing the 5 at large seats, and including seats for members from University Committees (e.g., Athletics Advisory Committee). Additionally, there was discussion of removing APC from the Constitution since it is not a subcommittee of FC. It was clarified that the APC chair will continue to serve on FCEC and will give reports to FC. The following indicate the results of the polls. Lacking a quorum, this does not reflect binding votes:*

- *APC references: remove APC from the list of Faculty Congress committees (11); maintain status quo where APC is listed as a Faculty Congress committee (4); abstain (5)*
- *Adding back at-large seats:*
  - *Have 3 at-large seats – one seat would be reserved for adjuncts; one seat would be for reserved for full-time faculty (CNT or T/TT); and the third seat would be open to any faculty member.  (13)*
  - *Have 2 at-large (5)*
  - *Abstain (2)*
- *Minimum terms of service:*
  - *All faculty serving on FC shall be, at minimum, completing their sixth semester at Villanova, except for faculty occupying at-large seats, who at minimum must be completing their third semester at Villanova (12)*
  - *Maintain the practiced status quo; that is, all faculty serving on FC shall be, at minimum, completing their sixth semester at Villanova. (2)*
  - *Option 3: All faculty serving on FC shall be, at minimum, completing their sixth semester at Villanova, except for faculty occupying at-large seats (6)*

**New Business**
1. Poll: Changes to CNT voting rights for departmental chair (see Appendix A)

*Discussion of allowing CNT to vote for chair. There was discussion of concerns that had been expressed in previous attempts to make this change, including non-standard hiring practices for CNT (which have since been standardized).The results of the poll:*

- *Do you approve changing the handbook wording on p. 48, Section D.3. to "Any continuing non-tenure track faculty member, who at the time of the chair's selection process, has completed three full semesters of continuous service at Villanova, may nominate and vote." Yes (12); Abstain (3)*

2. Fossil fuel divesment resolution (Joe) – see: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rw_t7Og7e5Yp3Zu9n_WAatwCn3hheXhnvvF2bN8T87Q/edit?usp=sharing
3. Call for interested faculty to join an Open Access Policy Committee (an example policy: https://openarchive.stanford.edu/policy)  (Katie)
4. Call for any additional items for March 30 meeting with Provost/VPAA – already on the list: request for update on salary study for CNT and adjunct faculty; strategic plan updates; Degreeworks; discuss common template/access system for policies in all colleges; graduation feedback follow-up (Katie)

**Reminders**

***Upcoming Congress events:***

<u>FC leadership meetings with Provost & Vice Provost</u>
(Katie, Joe, Bridget, Amanda)
- ~~March 1~~  March 30
- May 9

<u>Spring 2023 Faculty Congress general meetings</u>
- ~~Wednesday, January 25, 11:30am – 1:00pm (Zoom)~~
- ~~Monday, February 20, 11:30am – 1:00pm (Hybrid)~~
- Wednesday, March 22, 11:30am – 1:00pm (Zoom)
- Thursday, May 4, 10:00am – 11:30am (Hybrid)

<u>2022-23 Spring Faculty Fridays, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (*The Refectory*)</u>
- ~~January 27~~
- ~~February 24~~
- March 31
- April 28

**Appendix A: Standing Committee Reports**

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committie

*FRRC discussed CNT voting for department chairs, and the 9 present all voted to change the handbook wording to:*

> *"Any continuing non-tenure track faculty member, who at the time of the chair's selection process, has completed three full semesters of continuous service at Villanova, may nominate and vote."*

Academic Policy Committee

*The committee hosted a presentation and discussion on the Race, Justice and Dialogue Course. Next year they are planning to have 17 sections. The following year, 55 sectionsFaculty who have interest in joining the Race and Justice Center Seminar are welcome whether or not they intend to teach the course. The committee updated APC Protocol such that the requirements of the APC Chair is any full-time faculty member at the rank of associate or above. APC also discussed the proposal brought by SGA on Student Wellness Days and are preparing a proposal to move this forward.*

**Appendix B: Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee Report**

**Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee**
**Feb. 13, 2023**

**Provost's updates**
1. Class of 2027
   - upcoming deadlines for early decision notifications (2/15) and regular decision
        notification (4/1)
   - applicant statistics for the incoming Class of 2027
        • 23,720 total applicants (down 0.4% from 2022)
        • 14,672 early action applicants (up 3.8% from 2022)
             - accepted 2266 (15.4%)
             - 9 enrolled so far, but have until May 1
        • 1187 Early Decision 1 applicants
             - admitted 664 (56%)
        • 467 Early Decision 2 applicants
             - decisions go out 2/15
             - last year admitted 38%
        • 7,394 regular decision (down 9.9% from 2022)

2. Class of 2022 Outcomes (results for 85% of graduating class)
   - 98.9% successful placement rate (top 1% of US colleges for placement and salary)
        • highest successful placement rate for University
        • 73.7% employed
        • 21.3% continuing education (University-wide)
             - higher for CLAS
   - average starting salary: $71,363

• 8.5% increase over Class of 2021
• CLAS alumni average annual salary is ~$60,000
• VSB and nursing alumni haver highest salaries
- overall positive sentiment toward Villanova among Class of 2022
• over 90% agree that VU experience prepared them for next steps in career and life

3. Student research and fellowships
- VU is among top Fulbright producers nationally for 15th consecutive year
• 45 of 69 applications are semifinalists for award
- Rahul Thapa '21 CLAS named Knight Hennessy Scholars finalist
- students presenting at Big East undergrad research symposium during basketball tournament

4. College of Professional Studies
- "Pursue the next you" marketing campaign with TV ads, billboards, radio
- almost all virtual certificate or degree programs
- ~10, 000 total students
- online majors: entrepreneurship, information management, leadership, public service and administration
- some majors are in-person (through CLAS or other colleges)

4. Student life updates
- New Office of Parent and Family Relations
• direct line of communication with parents
- On campus hosing
• new housing database to improve student experience and work processes
• housing selection for rising sophomores and juniors is ongoing
- 2$^{nd}$ annual winter gala on Feb. 17
• no-cost event for students
- Student health center
• ongoing management of COVID-19, flu, other viruses
• continuing to see significant issues related to student mental health

5. Operational updates
- VSB Dean search
• focus group and stakeholder sessions held
• advertised in 19 outlets and on VSB website
• Deans, Vice Deans, department chairs solicited
• 100 nominations, ~80 applied, 3 finalists for on-campus two-day interviews
• search committee of 13 chaired by Pat Maggitti
- online graduate program initiative
- CNT salary study
• underway and close to recommendations
• <$1 million deficit (comparatively less than salary deficit for TT faculty)
- staff compensation study
• ongoing
- student life housing software
• survey is deployed
• could expand overseas
- graduate housing update

> • ongoing debate regarding how to solve problem for grad students (on campus or nearby housing)

6. Capital projects update
- upcoming and possible capital projects
  - CEER topping out is 2/14
  - plan for a new library pending board approval
  - master plan
    - consulting project

**Presentation by Dr. Mike Westrate (Assistant Vice Provost, Grad Research and Education) on the first 120 days of the new Center for Graduate Research and Education (aka the "Grad Center")**

1. Grad center officially launched on Aug. 16., 2022
- Westrate transitioned from CRF director to AVP
  - CRF still reports to Westrate
- Westrate heads staff at Grad Center
- for graduate and law students
- foundational principles
  - mission: to make grad students heard, represented, included
  - add to efforts of other offices across University (e.g. Career center)
  - seek a cultural change to show University the value of graduate students
    - integrate graduate students into VU community
    - benefit to the research enterprise, to undergraduate experience, to VU community
- collaborations with:
  - Campus Mission and Ministry
  - Student academic support
  - Office of Student Involvement
  - Colleges and Programs
  - Center for Research and fellowships
  - Experienced Career Services
  - Student Groups
- goals
  - equitable support for graduate students in all colleges
  - streamlined and equitable policies and processes at centralized level
  - augmented research support
  - improved professional development opportunities
  - more opportunities for grad students in sports, service, social programs

2. VU Grad student population
- equivalent to greater than 50% of the undergraduate population
- grad students make up more than 35% of the total student population
  - 3800 grad students
  - more than 1200 are in person, on campus—but not residents!
  - 34% full-time students
  - 35% in-person
  - some 100% online

3. Results of graduate student survey
- sent to 3744 graduate and law students through OSPIE
- response rate of 42% (~1/3 to ½ of invited responded)
- Survey Question: most positive aspects of being a grad student at Villanova?
  - faculty (number 1 and 2 answers)
  - research
  - community

- Survey Question: how could VU be improved for grad students?
  - reduce cost of healthcare; provide dental coverage
  - SEPTA discounts
  - more opportunities for student interaction, research, professional development
  - physical study spaces
  - improve on-boarding and orientation
- Survey Question: interest in learning about Augustinian values?
  - among grad students 37% identify as catholic, 12% as Christian
  - almost 1/3 of self-reported atheist and agnostics are very or moderately interested in learning about Augustinian values
  - greater interest among those who are already aware of Augustinian values

4. Accomplishments of the Grad Center in first 120 days
   - established new office
   - hired staff of three (all VU alum or currently pursuing degree here)
   - developed a needs-based health insurance subsidy application
     - ~47% of PhD students applied for and received subsidy for full cost of health insurance
     - 54 funded Master's students received $2000 subsidy
   - established graduate student emergency fund
     - converted COVID hardship fund
     - small grants of ~$500
   - created robust Orientation programming
     - virtual event
   - new grad student experiences
     - averaging 2-3 events weekly
     - on-campus happy hours, meals, group work spaces/times
     - professional development workshops over the summer
       - 14 have applied to Fulbright and 11 are semi-finalists
   - onboarding for international students
   - created communications plan
     - created Grad Central News (weekly newsletter via email)
     - build Grad Center website
   - removed significant inequality (financial compensation and title) for graduate students in Philosophy as compared with other humanities
     - students now make same amount of money and have similar teaching loads
     - stipend pay, not adjuncts
   - worked with Athletics and Student Involvement to allow grad students access to athletics ticket lottery

5. Physical space for the Grad Center
   - currently in St. Mary's
   - planning for space in Vasey Hall
   - advising Falvey renovation team on dedicated student lounge, study, storage space

6. Future plans
   - more international student recruitment and support

- more underrepresented student recruitment and support
    • GEM consortium is one avenue
- housing services and roommate finder
- graduate pay process streamlining, and improvement
- more grad student groups
- professional development systems and supports
- more experiences (events, trips, etc.)
- develop a Graduate council and Formal Graduate Student Government

**The meeting concluded with brief comments by Pat Maggitti  on ChatGPT, a new web-based artificial intelligence bot capable of quickly generating text in response to user prompts. Dr. Maggitti reviewed the contents of Randy Weinstein's email on this topic that was sent to the faculty at the beginning of the Fall 2022 semester.**

- several student representatives at the meeting commented that their professors had addressed ChatGPT and the potential for its misuse in completing writing assignments (an academic integrity violation)