



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
FACULTY CONGRESS

Academic Year 2014-2015

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, academic freedom is the cornerstone of academic inquiry and intellectual growth, both fundamental to teaching and research;

WHEREAS, Villanova University's Faculty Handbook states, in the section entitled "Academic Freedom":

As a necessary condition for fulfilling their duties and functions as teacher-scholars, all faculty members (tenured, tenure-track, non-tenure-track full-time, or part-time adjunct) are entitled to full academic freedom in teaching, in research, and in disseminating the products of their scholarship. One's academic freedom is intrinsically linked to one's responsibilities as a scholar and member of the Villanova community [...]

BE IT RESOLVED, the Faculty Congress reiterates its unequivocal and unwavering support for the university's faculty as the sole arbiters of academic content and scholarly interest in their teaching and research; and that departments, programs, centers, and institutes are entirely capable and responsible for making such pedagogical and intellectual determinations as they see fit.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Faculty Congress recognizes, for discussions between the faculty and the administration about the appropriateness of intellectual content for teaching or research, only those formal channels that currently exist: from department, program, center, or institute to the College Dean's office — often including the participation of a college-wide curriculum committee — and from the College Dean's office to the Vice President for Academic Affairs / Provost.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Faculty Congress only recognizes those discussions about the appropriateness of intellectual content between the administration and faculty that follow and respect these formal lines of conversation.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Faculty Congress strenuously rebukes any and all discussions about the appropriateness of intellectual content between the administration and faculty — and between any colleagues who occupy different levels in the university's organizational chart — that could give the impression of improper influence or coercion.

Resolved this 20th day of April, 2015