



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
FACULTY CONGRESS

Academic Year 2019-2020

October 7, 2019
9:00 am to 10:30 am
MSC 103

Present: Ani Ural, Andrew Scott, , Aronté Bennett, Calvin Li, Christopher Kilby, Elizabeth Petit de Mange, Erasmus Kersting, Eric Lomazoff, Jacky Huang, James Peyton Jones, Javad Siah, Jennifer Altamuro, Jennifer Ross, Jeremy Kees, John Paul Spiro, Judy Strzepek, Mark Wilson, Marylu Hill, Michael Posner, Michele Pistone, Paul Steege, Peggy Lyons, Rory Kramer, Salvatore Poeta, Samantha Chapman, Scott Dressler, Stacey Havlik, , Stephanie Katz, , Tim Horner, Tina Agustiady, Tom Way, Travis Foster

Absent: Alice Dailey (NIA), Angela DiBenedetto (NIA), Edward Wahesh (NIA), Melissa Hodges (NIA), Sherry Burrell (NIA), Sohail Chaudhry (NIA), Stefanie Knauss (NIA), Stephen Napier (NIA)

The meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. in Mendel 103.

Housekeeping

1. Minutes from the September 11, 2019 meeting were approved.
2. Chair Tom Way announced upcoming Executive Committee activities with University leadership and invited members to share any suggestions for questions and concerns to share.
 - 10/09/19 Faculty Congress Leadership Meeting with Provost & Vice Provost
 - 10/29/19 Executive Committee dinner with President
 - 11/25/19 Faculty Congress Leadership Meeting with Provost & Vice Provost

Standing Committee Reports (*reports submitted in advance; please see appendix; this time set aside for elevated issues and/or questions*)

1. Adjunct Faculty Representatives (Judy Strzepek, Tina Agustiady). Judy Strzepek shared that her committee has worked on organizing a SharePoint site for adjunct faculty.
2. CNT/FTNTT Faculty Representatives (Mark Wilson). Mark Wilson reminded members that the CNT Promotions Committee is currently being populated through an election process.
3. Election and Credentials Committee (Q Chung incoming chair, Bob Styer outgoing chair). Tom shared a report describing the Committee's work populating the University Rank and Tenure Committee as well as the CNT Promotions Committee.
4. Awards Committee (Sherry Burrell co-chair, Peggy Lyons co-chair, Andrew Scott).
5. Research Policy Committee (RPC; James Peyton Jones, chair). James reported that RPC met with Amanda Grannas, who shared that there is a new financial conflict of interest policy and that the Research Support Institute is now up and running.

6. Faculty Rights & Responsibilities Committee (FRRC; Alice Dailey, chair). Reporting for Alice, James Peyton Jones shared the committee's discussion of whether department chairs should have term limits.
7. Retired faculty members (member tbd). Previous representative Joe Betz is looking into recruiting a new retired faculty representative to Faculty Congress.

Committees with Faculty Representation (*time set aside for questions about reports received*)

1. Academic Policy Committee (Christopher Kilby, chair). Christopher shared three areas of focus within APC:
 - i. Canvas is on the horizon, replacing Blackboard, though this process is currently on hold with the change in UNIT leadership. The transition is currently on track to occur between June 2020 and June 2021.
 - ii. APC is considering whether to recommend that the Registrar become a gatekeeper, requiring approval from both the home department/program and other involved departments/programs (such as Honors) before attributes can be assigned.
 - iii. He also reported on a proposed new policy, IncludED, which would wrap textbooks into the cost of tuition. Members raised multiple objections to the program, including that it would ultimately increase costs for most students and cause students in some departments to subsidize the cost of textbooks for students in others. Members also questioned whether the assumptions behind the program's current cost estimates (about \$500 per student per semester) are that most textbooks funded by the program would be either rented or electronic. Members finally raised objections to the process, including the speed of the proposal's implementation, the lack of opportunity for widespread faculty feedback, and the apparently limited consultation with Villanova students and parents. Faculty Congress unanimously passed a resolution that: (1) affirmed our goal of making textbooks more accessible and affordable for our students; (2) concluded that, based on current information, the "includED" proposal fails to achieve this goal; and (3) opposed the adoption of the "includED" proposal in its current form.

Old Business

1. Parking policy, information to share from Parking Office, next steps. FC leadership reported that they had shared faculty concerns regarding recent parking policy relating to (a) charging visitors for parking; (b) the relatively complex procedure for obtaining permits for invited visitors; (c) parking for retired faculty; and (d) the 60% surcharge on parking permits for drivers of electric vehicles. Faculty also suggested that some accommodation is needed for occasional users, such as adjuncts or faculty who normally commute by train, or for faculty or program participants who are on campus only during the summer.
2. The Budget Committee received three additional faculty appointments (Nursing, Arts, Sciences representatives).

New Business

1. Student deaths. There was some discussion about a recent email from the Provost encouraging classroom discussion after student deaths and decisions not to share details about those deaths with faculty. There was some discussion about how to balance family privacy against the public good that can come from a more open sharing of information.
2. Sustainability. James reported that the University is moving ahead on securing a short-term contract to source an additional amount of power from sustainable sources. Members expressed a

desire for Faculty Congress to participate more actively in campus sustainability agendas. There was discussion about the best mechanisms to accomplish such a goal.

3. Term limits for department chairs. There was some discussion about the possibility of recommending term limits for department chairs. Many members voiced the opinion that such limits would benefit the health of departments and the overall institution by more evenly distributing leadership roles among faculty, protecting faculty from the burn out and research slowdown that can accompany the chair position, and providing greater diversity in emphases and leadership styles. Members also suggested reasons that a one-size-fits-all term limit model may not be feasible given the differences in department size.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.