



Faculty Congress Minutes

April 28, 2017

SAC 300

In attendance: Catherine Warrick (vice-chair), Rick Eckstein (treasurer, secretary *pro-tem* I), Christopher Kilby (secretary *pro tem* II), Sheryl Bowen, Sohail Chaudhry, Gordon Coonfield, Alice Dailey, Mirela Damien, Diane Ellis, Ruth Gordon, Eric Lomazoff, Mike McGoldrick, Joseph Micucci, James Peyton-Jones, Joe Schick, Dennis Wykoff.

Absent: Aronté Bennett (NIA), Danai Chasaki, Jerusha Conner (NIA), Angela DiBenedetto, Jennifer Dixon, David Fiorenza, Marylu Hill (NIA), Shelly Howton (NIA), Stephanie Katz, Jeremy Kees, Rory Kramer (NIA), Michael Levitan, Eric Lomazoff, Peggy Lyons (NIA), Elizabeth Petit de Mangé, Alan Pichanick (NIA), Salvatore Poeta (NIA), Michael Posner, Rees Rankin, Quinetta Roberson (Sabbatical), Jennifer Ross, Kelly Welch (NIA), Mark Wilson (NIA), Rosalind Wynne, Tina Yang (NIA).

Guests: Shawn Proctor, Yvonne Nguyen (Villanovans Against Sweatshops)

1. There were some brief amendments to the **March minutes**: Gordon Coonfield did attend; C Kilby identified some typos. Minutes as amended were approved.
2. The proposed **ombudsperson** was endorsed by University Counsel and the Graduate Student Council. The issue is now before the Provost.
3. **Policy 120**, a “policy on policy,” now appears on the university website. Interestingly, it seems to eschew governance’s role in policy making. Ironically (perhaps), this policy on policy was created without governance input.
4. Discussions about **free speech** and **transparent funding** were deferred to the fall semester.
5. The nascent **chess club** needs an adviser.
6. **Retiree health benefits**. Current insurance plans will remain available for purchase but without university subsidies.
7. Yvonne Nguyen from **Villanovans Against Sweatshops (VAS)**, provided an update on the group’s efforts. VAS has been pressuring the university to pressure Nike, which has been violating its arrangement with the Workers Rights Consortium to allow independent inspections of apparel factories in (primarily) southeast Asia. Villanova’s administration said it would follow

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Georgetown's lead on this issue. But Georgetown has severed its ties with Nike until the issue is resolved. Villanova has not followed this lead. Fr. Peter has stopped meeting with VAS.

Christopher Kilby and Rick Eckstein volunteered to draft a statement of support for VAS. This statement will be shared with University Staff Council.

8. **FRRC** Report (Alice Dailey). There is some progress being made on getting new faculty paid much sooner after arriving on campus, especially since they are required to be here in mid-August for orientation; the committee is working on guidelines for new faculty orientation; adjunct unionization continues to be discussed as a real and possibly beneficial option; further discussion of CNT promotion tracks.

9. Retired Faculty Representative Joe Betz asked if student athletes were upset about losing practice space with the renovation of the Pavilion.

10. James Peyton-Jones asked why the University is contracting out electricity generation; Shawn Proctor offered to follow up on the matter with Liesel Schwarz (Chair of PESC).

11. Under new business, FC discussed whether it should have designated reporting representatives on each committee. James Peyton-Jones suggested a technical solution, e.g., using Blackboard or Dropbox but Dennis Wykoff pointed out that on some committees (e.g., Facilities) virtually all the items discussed consider confidential and could not be included in a report.

12. FC discussed what to do with periodic (but frequent) requests to circulate information to the faculty where the information is not related to Faculty Congress. Should FC circulate these but include some standard line like "Shared but not endorsed by..." or simply redirect requests to Campus Currents (perhaps suggesting that a new category be added to Campus Currents for such items)? The last item appeared to have support.

13. The Research Policy Committee (RPC) Proposal is not yet ready to forward to the administration; FC will return to this in the fall. There was some discussion about how pressing an issue this is and whether APC should instead be the freestanding committee to address research issues. However, these committees are to report to the relevant administrator. For APC, this is Craig Wheeland (Vice Provost for Academics). For the proposed RPC, this would be Amanda Grannas (Associate Vice Provost for Research). This is an argument in favor of a separate RPC (i.e., each committee reporting to only one administrator).