



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
FACULTY CONGRESS

Academic Year 2019-2020

September 11, 2019
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
MSC 103

Present: Alice Dailey, Andrew Scott, Angela DiBenedetto, Aronte Bennett, Christopher Kilby, Edward Wahesh, Erasmus Kersting, Eric Lomazoff, James Peyton Jones, Jennifer Altamuro, Jeremy Kees, Judy Strzepek, Mark Wilson, Melissa Hodges, Michele Pistone, Paul Steege, Peggy Lyons, Rory Kramer, Sohail Chaudhry, Stacey Havlik, Stefanie Knauss, Stephanie Katz, Stephen Napier, Tina Agustiady, Tom Way, Travis Foster

Absent: Ani Ural (NIA), Calvin Li, Elizabeth Petit de Mange, Jacky Huang, Javad Siah, Jennifer Ross (NIA), John Paul Spiro (NIA), Michael Posner (NIA), Samantha Chapman (NIA), Marylu Hill (NIA), Scott Dressler (NIA), Sherry Burrell, Tim Horner (NIA), Salvatore Poeta (NIA)

The meeting commenced at 3:00 p.m. in Mendel 103.

Housekeeping

1. Chair Tom Way issued the charge for the academic year: Stay ardent!
2. Minutes from the April 10, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Tom welcomed new members.
4. Tom announced upcoming Executive Committee activities, including meetings with the new faculty ombudsman, the Provost, and the President and invited members to share thoughts, questions, and suggestions they would like passed along. He also announced that he and Vice Chair James Peyton-Jones are attending Staff Council meetings and attempting to foster collaboration between Faculty Congress and Staff Council.

Special Guest, Michael Gaynor, Director of Undergraduate Admissions

1. Faculty Congress welcomed guest Michael Gaynor, Director of Undergraduate Admission, to discuss efforts to enroll an increasing percentage of undergraduate students of color. He provided statistics showing that enrollment of domestic students of color has increased over the past four years, including a record enrollment of students of color in this year's incoming class. He described efforts his office is making to recruit more applicants and students of color, including visiting targeted high schools, "flying in" a group of students who have received admissions acceptances, partnering with organizations such as Philadelphia Futures and the Posse Foundation, and expanding funding opportunities such as the St. Martin de Porre scholarship.

Photograph

Alice Dailey, Andrew Scott, Angela DiBenedetto, Ani Ural, Aronte Bennett, Calvin Li, Christopher Kilby, Edward Wahesh, Elizabeth Petit de Mange, Erasmus Kersting, Eric Lomazoff, J.P. Spiro, Jacky Huang, James Peyton Jones (Vice Chair), Javad Siah, Jennifer Altamuro, Jennifer Ross, Jeremy Kees, Judy Strzepek, Mark Wilson, Marylu Hill, Melissa Hodges, Michael Posner, Michele Pistone, Paul Steege, Peggy Lyons, Rory Kramer, Sal Poeta, Samantha Chapman, Scott Dressler, Sherry Burrell, Sohail Chaudhry, Stacey Havlik, Stefanie Knauss, Stephanie Katz, Stephen Napier, Tim Horner, Tina Agustiady, Tom Way (Chair), Travis Foster

1. 2019-20 Faculty Congress members posed for a photograph, which will be available on the Faculty Congress website.

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

1. Election and Credentials Committee (Q Chung, chair). Tom Way read from Q Chung's report noting upcoming elections to fill open committee positions, including the University Budget Committee and the CNTT Promotions Committee.
2. Research Policy Committee (RPC; James Peyton Jones, chair). James reported that RPC will be working on changing the blanket policy that all grants must follow under federal policies, whether they are government grants or not.
3. Faculty Rights & Responsibilities Committee (FRRC; Alice Dailey, chair). Alice reported that the new revisions to the retirement policy are now in the handbook. CNT faculty are now eligible to vote in CNT hiring. FRRC will also be looking into the composition of Rank and Tenure Committees in relation to peer schools.

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

1. Academic Policy Committee (Christopher Kilby, chair). Christopher reported on attempts to speed up CATS reporting. He also noted that a course preview policy will go into place shortly. He also reported that the working group on whether coursebooks will be included in tuition continues to meet.

Old Business

1. James Peyton Jones reported from the Sustainability Leadership Council. He notes that there is a window of opportunity to present projects that can be funded by the Sustainability Leadership Council. He encouraged faculty to develop and submit concrete proposals. He also noted that the student walkout for climate change will occur at noon on September 20, and he encouraged faculty to support students who are participating.

New Business

1. **Surveys, privacy and compliance issues, affirming best practices** There was a discussion about the use of surveys, including questions about privacy. Surveys were recognized as a useful tool, but credible information has been received that some survey reports have included non-aggregated, individually identifiable data. Concern was also expressed that in some cases surveys were replacing (rather than supplementing) more meaningful consultation with faculty and eliminating substantive debate. It was noted that a March 2015 Faculty Congress resolution regarding surveys already exists, but that it was not widely known. A motion was put forward to stress the significance of careful survey methodology and the scrupulous use of survey results as previously outlined in the March 2015 Faculty Congress resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Special Guest, Meg Willoughby, Villanova Faculty Ombudsperson

1. Ombudsperson Meg Willoughby reported on the role of her office, which will be to assist with workplace conflicts while remaining neutral and independent. She will report to both Faculty Congress and the Provost's office. All consultations with her office will remain strictly confidential unless she is given prior permission to share details.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.