

# Meeting of the Villanova University Academic Policy Committee

Wednesday, December 7, 2011  
Mendel Science Center, room 103, 12:30 pm

## MINUTES

Present: Louise Russo (chair), Lesley Perry, Christopher Haas, Mike Pagano, Ed Kresch, Bob Styer, Paul Pasles, Craig Wheeland, Adele Lindenmeyr, Lowell Gustafson, Joyce Willens, Chiji Akoma, Matthew Pagano, Sridhar Santhanam, Wayne Bremser, Gerard Jones, Dennis Kuhn

Not in Attendance: Mary Ann Cantrell, Farid Zamani (sabbatical leave), Mark Sullivan (sabbatical leave), Letizia Modena, Fayette Veverka, Megan Copel, Ellie Garbade, Kathleen Carden, Elizabeth Heurich, Susan Mackey-Kallis (fellowship leave)

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm.

- I. Members of the CATS assessment team including Paul Bonfanti, Nurit Friedman, and Jim Trainer of OPIR and external consultant, Dr. Luke Keele, Penn State University, were invited to attend the meeting in order to present the initial data report. The committee did not begin with regular business in order to maximize the time available for CATS data review and discussion. Dr. Keele presented his summary findings derived from analysis of the robust data set and explained the methodological approach to identify trends in the areas stipulated by the CATS analysis team (such as gender, race, and age). Members of the OPIR team elaborated as necessary to address questions pertaining to the data set itself (number or years, course selection/restrictions, etc.) that might influence interpretation. The committee and members of the CATS assessment team discussed the data findings in general with the main focus centered on what the APC should set as a goal to address the possible implications and use of this critical information across the university. Discussion topics included the following:
  - a. where to go with the data; the APC will have a role in determining how this data will be used to effect change as necessary in areas such as interpretation of CATS data in annual/triennial evaluations as well as rank and tenure decisions
  - b. how unusual are the data trends; is this variation “typical” across institutions
  - c. how will the information be opened more broadly to faculty at large who will be interested in and impacted by the data outcome
  - d. general consensus supported focus on how to use the data rather than on the CATS vehicle itself; at present the goal will not be to re-address the question content or structure of the evaluation form though this may be important to consider in the future
  - e. how significant are the patterns that were highlighted in the report, i.e. what is “significant” in light of limited availability of statistical confidence values

Discussion will continue at the next meeting in 2012. However, Craig Wheeland indicated that the report will be sent to the Deans prior to that meeting. The VPAA’s office will then consider full distribution of the report to all APC members with the understanding that the content is not to be shared more broadly with colleagues

until the committee has prepared a plan of action to address use of the data in policy-related decision processes.

II. Due to the need for several members to leave in order to make 1:30 pm classes, the meeting was adjourned prior to committee approval of the minutes from November 16. As no requests were made for additional edits to the revised draft minutes, the chair will work to complete approval via email communication.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Louise Russo

Members of APC: Louise Russo (chair), Wayne Bremser, Fayette Veverka, Robert Styer, Adele Lindenmeyr, Christopher Haas, Mark Sullivan, Mary Ann Cantrell, Louise Fitzpatrick (represented by Lesley Perry), Joyce S. Willens, Mike Pagano, Paul Pasles, Chiji Akoma, Kail Ellis (represented by Craig Wheeland), Jean Ann Linney (represented by Lowell Gustafson), Gary Gabriele (represented by Gerard Jones), Kevin Clark (represented by Dennis Kuhn), Letizia Modena, Susan Mackey-Kallis, Farid Zamani, Ed Kresch, Sridhar Santhanam, Elizabeth Heurich, Kathleen Carden, Gabrielle Bruno, Megan Copel, Ellie Garbade, Matthew Pagano, Marisa Fetterman (non-voting member)