

Faculty Scholars Advisory Team report November 2017

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The Faculty Scholars Advisory Team formed in the Fall 2016 to serve as an advisory group for the Associate Vice Provost for Research, Amanda Grannas. The first order of business was to craft a mission statement for the group. The stated mission of this Team is as follows:

Grounded in our Augustinian intellectual tradition, the Faculty Scholar Advisory Team will promote excellence and distinction in research throughout the University and will serve as a liaison between faculty scholars and the Office of the Provost.

The Faculty Scholars Advisory Team met on the following dates during the Spring 2017 semester: Jan 13, 2017, Feb 17, 2017, Mar 24, 2017, and Apr 21, 2017. Our first discussion highlighted the University's forthcoming Strategic Plan and the hope that a Research Strategic Plan could be a crucial part of that initiative. Next, we discussed Space Utilization and how the survey on space utilization could best take into account faculty's research needs.

The third topic for the team was a review of a presentation by Jim Trainer regarding the transition to Carnegie classification National Doctoral University status. This same presentation was given to Faculty Congress. During March and April, the team also discussed the possibility of creating two new University-wide research awards and the nature of and qualifications for faculty receiving the awards. AVPR Grannas collected the concerns and ideas and developed the three new awards currently under review by Faculty Congress. The award summary draft was presented via email from Grannas to the committee on April 24 and further refined via email to yield the attached version on May 6, 2017.

The Faculty Scholars Advisory Team will meet on the following dates in the Fall 2017. For those meetings that have already occurred or for which an agenda has been announced, further detail is provided:

Sept 22, 2017:

- Discussion of AVPR presentation regarding grants received, grant workshops for faculty, luncheon discussions, and similar initiatives. The AVPR webpage summarizes these initiatives: <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/research/AVPR.html>
- Also discussed was the suggestion by the Provost that the AVPR explore a "VITAL for

Research” on campus. That proposal was announced by the Provost 5 days later in a general email to the University community.

- Some members of the committee raised concerns regarding the varying methodologies faculty employ for scholarship and the importance of not favoring any particular methodology. In short, a number of committee members raised skepticism of the value of the new office because it seemed probable that certain forms of research would necessarily be privileged based on the leadership structure and programming of the proposed institute.
 - Some members of the committee were enthusiastic at the prospect of such an institute and the idea that it could be shaped prior to implementation by the advisory committee and the AVPR.
- In a Sept 28 email following the September meeting, AVPR Grannas also noted the extensive change in structuring of administration dedicated to research. That information was included in the general email from the Provost also on Sept 28. Our committee did not discuss it prior to that email as some of the information was confidential.

Oct 20, 2017

Announced topic is a “Strategic Planning” meeting modeled on the same model as the open/public meetings for other stakeholders in the University.

Additional meetings scheduled for: Nov 3, 2017 and Dec 1, 2017

Our spring 2018 meeting schedule will be announced in January and we will forward it to the Faculty Congress once it becomes available.

Submitted by Sally Scholz