



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY SENATE & FACULTY CONGRESS

COMMITTEE ON FACULTY
Academic Year 2010-2011

Tuesday 7 September 2010, 4:00 p.m.
De Leon Room (300 SAC)

MINUTES

In attendance: Sohail Chaudhry, Q Chung (Faculty Congress chair, invited), Fr. Kail Ellis (*ex officio*), Judith Hadley, Eric Karson, Victoria McWilliams (*ex officio*), Paul Rosier, Joseph Schick, Seth Whidden (chair), Peter Zaleski.

Absent: Linda Copel (NIA), Joseph Dellapenna, Sarvesh Kulkarni, Barbara Ott (NIA), Maggie Wang (NIA), Thomas Way (NIA).

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 4:00 p.m.

1. Housekeeping

- Minutes of 9 April 2010 COF meeting were approved.
- The chair welcomed new members to the Committee on Faculty (Fr. Ellis, Drs. Hadley, Rosier, and Zaleski) and Dr. Chung, Faculty Congress chair, also in attendance.
- The chair stressed the importance of communication between COF and the faculty at large, and encouraged committee members to reach out to their constituencies.
As a reminder, here are the representatives from the constituencies in Arts & Sciences:
 - Whidden = Group I (English, Modern Languages, Global Studies)
 - Way = Group II (Computing Sciences, Education, Mathematical Sciences, Naval Sciences)
 - Rosier = Group III (History/Art History, Political Science, Geography and Environmental Studies, Psychology, Sociology)
 - Schick = Group IV (Astronomy and Astrophysics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
 - Hadley = Group V (Communications, Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies, Theatre/Studio Art, Humanities)

2. Old Business

- Members decided to dismiss the discussion (unfinished in 2009-10) of possibly changing the committee's name.
- The committee was reminded of the Awards Subcommittee's general charge and responsibilities. So that there will remain two COF members on the Awards Subcommittee, it was agreed that one of the members would be replaced at the end of the current academic year, with the goal being that the subcommittee would be comprised of one member and one returning member, each on a two-year term.

- Since the Facultas Award is given to staff members whose exceptional contribution is not limited to any one administrative entity, the committee will write to the VPAA, asking him to encourage college Deans to create the opportunity for similar faculty-generated recognition unique to each college. Drs. Karson, McWilliams, and Schick volunteered to draft the letter.
- With the two dean searches currently underway (the Law School and the College of Arts and Sciences), no new developments regarding the Provost search have been brought to the attention of the committee. Members agreed to ask for further information during our meeting with Fr. Donohue this semester (Tuesday 19 October, 4-5 pm).
- Dr. Chaudhry gave an overview of the previous year's discussion regarding distinguished professorships. The ensuing discussion fleshed out some of the points of contention, including whether such a title should reward exceptional research or exceptional research, teaching, and service. At the end of the discussion, Drs. Chaudhry, Rosier, and Zaleski agreed to work on the first draft of a proposal, to be taken up at the next meeting, for a professorship that would be for a limited term (as opposed to for life); and that would reward exceptional activity in research, teaching, and service.
- For the benefit of new COF members, the chair briefly reviewed the Parental Leave Policy that was brought to COF last year, as well as some of the issues related to FTNTT faculty members (voting rights, hiring, service expectations). No action on either matter was taken; any news regarding Parental Leave would no doubt come from Human Resources and/or the Vice President's office; and FTNTT issues would first be raised at a meeting of the Faculty Congress, who would then direct COF to take up one or several topics.

3. New Business

- The chair reminded the committee of the upcoming St. Thomas of Villanova Day of Service, with particular mention to Dr. Chung's call for participation from among the ranks of Faculty Congress.
- Among the topics that committee members are likely to submit prior to the 6 October meeting, for the 19 October meeting with Fr. Donohue, are establishing a university-accepted list of peer institutions; the paring back of benefits associated with the "Cadillac" PPO health care policy; partner accommodations (cf. the AAUP recommendation, circulated during the meeting). Committee members are asked to draft these and other possible topics and to submit them to the chair prior to the 6 October meeting.
- Tabled until the next meeting (Wednesday 6 October, 300 SAC, 4:30-5:30) was a discussion of specific policies in the Faculty Handbook, including:
 - the section entitled "Voting in Departmental Meetings" (<http://www.villanova.edu/vpaa/office/facultyservices/guidelines/handbook/policies.htm?p=voting.htm>)
 - the fourth bulleted point in Employment Agreements, subheading "Faculty Employment Agreement. Tenure/Tenure-Track," 5(a):
a strategic decision to discontinue or significantly reduce the size and scope of a college, a department, or free-standing academic program (center, institute,

major, minor, or course of studies) in which Faculty Member was hired and tenured.

(<http://www.villanova.edu/vpaa/office/facultyservices/guidelines/handbook/recruitment/agreements.htm>)

Cf. AAUP's Recommended Institutional Regulations on Academic Freedom and Tenure (2006), the section entitled "Discontinuance of Program or Department Not Mandated by Financial Exigency" d.(1)-(3).

(<http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/policydocs/contents/RIR.htm#b7>)

- The possibility was raised of drawing on the general faculty's expertise in a variety of fields to create a COF Good Practices Guide for department chairs, program directors, etc. The possibility of an Administrator's Handbook was raised, and the chair agreed to contact the VPAA to find out about such a handbook, which could be used as a starting point for COF's efforts. A COF Good Practices Guide could be a non-binding set of recommendations to include information on advantages and disadvantages of certain voting methods (perhaps with assistance from the Math Department); how to use (and how not to use) data in determining annual salary raises; etc. The committee agreed to discuss the matter at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Seth Whidden