**Minutes of the Faculty Congress**

Monday, November 4, 2002

 Present: Joyce Willens, Salvatore Poeta, Linda, Copel, Julia Paparella, Debra Arvanites,  Walter Conn,  Lowell Gustafson, Evan Radcliffe, Margaret Boerner, Robert Styer, Douglas Norton, Boots Cassel, Howard Lurie, Richard Jacobs, Jeffrey Johnson, Nancy Sharts-Hopko, Karyn Hollis, Burke Ward.

 Faculty Congress Chair Burke Ward opened the meeting at 4:00 pm. He then requested the chairs of the standing committees to give their reports.

Academic Policy Committee.  Chair Debra Arvanites reported that the committee met on 4 September 2002 for presentation of a new part-time studies proposal by Bob Stokes.  Dr. Johannes had asked the APC to approve the new program, but the APC expressed concerns about implementation, oversight, budgeting, and insurance of quality.  A later e-mail vote of APC members approved the program, by a vote of 17-9-1, but most approval was “with reservations.”  Arvanites and others on the Congress expressed most concern about ensuring the academic quality of the program.

Lowell Gustafson and others expressed concerns and recommended that the Faculty Congress  request  reports on this part-time studies program.

A motion was made and carried:

The Faculty Congress directs the Academic Policy Committee to ask for periodic evaluation of the new part-time studies program.

The APC met on 23 October to discuss a draft academic strategic plan, and develop a new draft.  The APC will meet again on 18 November to continue discussion of the academic strategic plan, and to develop an *ad hoc* committee to consider alternate ways of structuring the semester. Although the fifteen-week semester cannot be reduced to fewer weeks, it can perhaps be divided up differently from the way it is now.  An example would comprise twelve weeks of classes; two weeks of experience; and one week of finals.

Salary, Benefits and Terms and Conditions of Employment Committee.     Committee Chair

Richard Jacobs reported that the SBC will be fully staffed at their next meeting on 6 November 2002.  He has met with as many members of former committees as he can.  The agenda at the next meeting will be:

(1)   to discuss the purpose of the committee over the next two years to set goals and objectives;

(2) to discuss the President’s University Benefits Committee’s changes in tuition reimbursement and exchange from the faculty point of view;

(3) to set up a permanent liaison between the Faculty Congress’s SBC and the University Benefits Committee.  This is necessary be cause the faculty members of the UBC are appointed by and report to the President of the University, not the faculty;

(4) to develop a newsletter to report to the faculty what the FC SBC is doing and to raise and answer questions about benefits.

(5) to discuss the continuing problem of the “calendar”:   i.e., when part-time, fast-forward, distance-learning, and Saturday-only courses are assigned to a member of the faculty, there is a question as to how compensation should be calculated.  The administration and the faculty are not always agreed on “whose calendar” it is.

Committee on Faculty: Chair Jeff Johnson reported that the Lindback award for excellence in teaching has now been set up so that students vote via e-mail.  It is expected that eventually students will vote at the same time as they go through registration, as there is nothing conceptually against this, but coordination with NOVASIS will need to be established.  The final form of the voting is that students will vote before the Christmas break , and freshman will not  vote.  And classes of faculty finalists will eventually be visited.  The was some discussion as to how and even why the faculty should vote for the teachers to get the award.   But it was agreed that no one, certainly not the Lindback Foundation, wanted a mere “popularity contest.”

The Gallen award for service was also discussed, and opinion was given that it should continue to be subject to faculty input.  Faculty can nominate for the award, and nominations are due by the end of January.  Procedures for nomination can be found in the Faculty Handbook, now on line.

The chair called for nominations from the faculty for the Board of Trustees Committees of the University.  The procedure is that the FC sends three names to the President of Villanova, and he picks two.  Only the Committee on Faculty may vote for the nominees to be sent to the President.   The particulars of this procedure may be found in the Constitution of the Faculty Congress–on line at:

The current VPAA assessment process was discussed.  This committee of the COF is developing a similar process for assessment of the deans.

Elections and Credentials Committee” Chair Bob Styer reported that there was a difficulty in the FC Constitution such that the Chairperson of the FC could be voted on before the new Congress is elected.  Using a procedure by which the Constitution may be amended by motions proceeding from the ECC, Styer made the following motion, which was voted on and carried without dissent:

In the February preceding the term of the new Congress, the current Faculty Congress shall conduct a vote giving the sense of the body as to whom should serve as the new Faculty Congress Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

Pursuant to clarification as to voting for at-large seats on the FC, Styer used to same procedure to make the following motion, which was voted on and carried without dissent:

Full-time, non-tenure track faculty are eligible to vote for at-large seats on the Faculty Congress and may serve in such seats if they have three or more years of service to the University.

Senate Budget Committee: Chair Ward reported that the SBC is working on a plan to establish individual faculty development accounts.  This is to be separate from support for research expenses and is meant to capture some of the money budgeted by the university for faculty development.

Faculty Congress Executive Committee: The FCEC will meet with VPAA Johannes on 19 November, pursuant to the difference between perception and reality as to faculty involvement and input in administration decision making.

Other and New Business: The members of Faculty Congress need to be updated to an official list and revised on FC’s web page (http://www.villanova.edu/facultycongress/ ).

The next meeting of Faculty Congress will be on Tuesday, 3 December 2002 at 4:00 p.m. in the St.David’s/Radnor Room at the Connelly Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Boerner

Recording Secretary