Minutes of the March 18 meeting of the Faculty Congress --------------------------------------------------------------------- Minutes of the Faculty Congress Monday, March 18, 2002 4:00 PM Radnor-St. Davids Room The Connelly Center Present: Wayne Bremser, Lillian Cassel, Sohail Chaudhry, Walter Conn, Gertrude Graves, Lowell Gustafson, Karyn Hollis, Jeffrey Johnson, Janice Knepper, Edward Kresch, Eugene Kroch, Robert Langran, Chair; Howard Lurie, Susan Mackey-Kallis, Emmet McLaughlin, Douglas Norton, Rex Saffer, Nancy Sharts-Hopko, Harry Strack, Robert Styer, Rodger Van Allen, Burke Ward, Joyce Willens, and Peter Zaleski. Absent: Moeness Amin, Elaine Beletz (NIA), Walter Brogan (NIA), Linda Copel, Rick Eckstein, Edwin Goff, Michael Hones, Edward Jaworowski (NIA), James Klingler, Kenneth Kroos, Philip McLaughlin (NIA), Robert Murray, Julia Paparella (NIA), Evan Radcliffe, Joseph Schick (NIA), and Janice Sipior (NIA). Also in attendance: Edward McAssey, Thomas Monahan, and Helen Lafferty. Robert Langran called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. The academic deans had been asked to attend in order to discuss the Greater Villanova Model. Deans Ellis and Fitzpatrick were unable to attend. Thomas Monahan, Dean, C&F, spoke to the importance or developing an aggressive graduate program to attract potential students. He pointed out that Villanova is totally focused on its undergraduate programs. In the present climate, schools which have strong graduate programs receive the best ranking. Placing more emphasis on a graduate program, and developing a recognizable "brand name" in the academic world, would also help the undergraduate program. He noted that the university should continue to build up its faculty and strengthen its research programs, while maintaining a balance between undergraduate and graduate divisions. Ed McAssey, Acting Dean, Engineering, reinforced many of the points made by Dean Monahan. While Villanova has a strong undergraduate program in Engineering, the school would be enhanced by increased research activity. It would also be to the university's advantage to reach out to employers to foster programs. A PhD program in a few selected areas of interest could be developed, but they would have to be self-sustaining without burdening the undergraduate program. Susan Mackey-Kallis asked about the brand name concept. If the Villanova name was identified with specific programs, emphasizing the resources the school has, it would start to generate more funds through joint ventures with industries in the area. Name recognition is important. At present no money is put into advertising programs. The question was raised as to how the Greater Villanova Model reflects the school's mission and if the faculty is behind these goals. Dean Monahan stated that the school does not have facilities to enlarge the undergraduate program. The Greater Villanova Model is not independent of the mission but flows out from it. Rodger Van Allen asked if any discussion had taken place about the Greater Villanova model. He stated that one of the faculty's principal concerns is achieving some kind of faculty presence, but it seems that important discussions are taking place without any input from faculty. Dean Monahan said that some important conversations are taking place in the APC but no agreement has been reached. Susan Mackey-Kallis reiterated that the faculty does not get involved in the direction the university should take. Harry Strack added that the VPAA had presented plans to the full APC and that the administration did seek to consult appropriate members. Janice Knepper said she received a draft document via an e-mail. She responded to it but as it was labeled "confidential" did not feel free to seek comments from colleagues. Lowell Gustafson said that it is important to have ongoing dialogue at the onset of the discussion, especially when it deals with the overall structure of the university. It was suggested that the Faculty Congress pass a resolution to insure that faculty input is required before decisions are reached. Announcements: Robert Styer reported that four people have expressed an interest to be on the University Benefits committee. Another round of elections for faculty at-large seats for the Faculty Congress will be held. Dr. Langran thanked Rodger Van Allen, Robert Styer and Lowell Gustafson for publishing the latest issue of Facultas. Dr. Styer announced that the Facultas Award for 2002 was awarded to Mary Beth Avioli. The next Faculty Congress meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9. Dr. Johannes will be present and will take questions ahead of time as well as answer those from the floor. Regarding Faculty Congress membership, Dr. Langran requested that members extend their terms of office, as all terms expire at the end of this academic year. If the full membership is in place before the end of the semester, it would be possible to set up the organizational structure in time for implementation in September. Committee Reports Committee on Faculty, Burke Ward reporting The Lindback Award process has been reformed. The Gallen Service Award nominations are closed. The two-line budget item has been sent on to the Budget Subcommittee of the APBC for reconsideration. In addition, the problem arising out of requesting the faculty to be available for Friday night and Saturday classes will be discussed. Academic Policy Committee, Ed Kresch reporting Ed Kresch commented on Harry Strack's study of the WX policy. He collected much data but it revealed no trends or substantive conclusions regarding the effective date of the WX. A proposal is on the table to change the due date for mid-term grades to the week after break. Deadline for WX would be the week following issuance of grades, and no WX will be allowed after the deadline. The student has a legal right to drop a course and the signature of the instructor is not required. However, the student's advisor must sign off on the WX. Faculty will be notified of the WX by the registrar. A question was asked how the average on the CATS is computed, and the answer was that each student has equal weight. A request was made from several members of Peace and Justice that Martin Luther King Day be declared a holiday at Villanova. The request was presented to the faculty Committee on Inclusiveness and Diversity who approved it and sent it on to Father Dobbin who gave it his approval. In this connection, Gertrude Graves said that the APC needs to address the academic calendar problem; specifically, the method of switching days to compensate for the lost academic Mondays. One suggestion was to eliminate one reading day. Susan Mackey-Kallis brought up the issue that the APC is chaired by the VPAA and is, in fact, his advisory body. Although it may act as an effective vehicle for him, it is not necessarily an effective vehicle for faculty concerns. Dr. Gustafson stated that if the faculty caucused before the meetings were held, more could be accomplished. Susan Mackey-Kallis added that the faculty are in part responsible for the lack of interest. Members of the APC should set up regularly scheduled meetings in order to be better prepared. The Committee on Faculty neds to address the fact that although there are a large number of adjuncts in the faculty, they are non-voting participants. The following motion was made: RESOLVED: As the adjunct faculty is an important part of the Villanova community, and their interests overlap substantially with those of full time faculty, be it resolved that the adjunct faculty be allowed to appoint a non-voting participant to the Salary, Benefits, and Terms and Conditions of Employment Committee. Originally it was planned to request a member on the Committee on Faculty, but Dr. Langran noted that the chair appoints the members to the Salary, Benefits and Terms and Condition of Employment Committee, so it was changed so it could be mandated that one of the members be an adjunct, selected by the adjunct faculty members. Gertrude Graves said this would be a real support for the adjuncts. Peter Zaleski seconded the motion. It passed unanimously with one abstention. Benefits Committee, Peter Zaleski reporting The committee is putting together a survey of faculty concerning satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the current benefits plan. It should be out within the next two weeks. Regarding the availability of faculty to teach on Friday nights or Saturdays, the committee is addressing to what extent the faculty is under contractual binder and the legal ramifications involved. It would be useful to find out what peer institutions are doing in this regard. The evaluation of the VPAA came under discussion. Philip McLaughlin's committee is devising a questionnaire for faculty evaluation of VPAA performance. The following motion was made: MOTION: The Faculty Congress would like the VPAA Assessment Committee to evaluate the results of the questionnaire sent out to the faculty before sending the report to the President of the University. The motion passed with two abstentions. The committee will also look into the process of the assessment of the academic deans. Dr. Langran will be meeting with the VPAA to discuss this further. Dr. Langran requested that the committees formulate motions to come before the Faculty Congress, and that the chairpersons inform the Executive Committee of this activity ahead of time. There was no new business. The meeting adjourned at 6 PM. Respectfully submitted, Robert Langran Chair