

Minutes
The Faculty Assembly
The Catholic University of America May 29, 2018

The meeting began at 12:03 p.m. with Dr. Linda Plitt Donaldson presiding.

The 65 people present introduced themselves by their School affiliation. Faculty from STRS, Arts & Sciences, Engineering, NCSSS, Nursing, Architecture, Law, and Music were present.

Dr. Donaldson read aloud the agenda and minutes, which were then approved unanimously.

The faculty then voted to approve the nominating committee slate, which will function as the executive committee until elections are held in the fall semester; all assembled voted in favor, with one abstention.

A Motion came to the floor to express disapproval of the Academic Renewal Proposal:

The Provost and President have stated that the Proposal for Academic Renewal was “approved” by the Academic Senate. This is a misrepresentation of the Senate’s action, which was not approbative but procedural. We the Faculty Assembly wish to state unambiguously that we DISAPPROVE of the Proposal for Academic Renewal, taken as a whole, because it does not express a firm commitment to preserving tenure, and it continues to include conclusions based on faulty data (Appendix C).

A Discussion by the Faculty Assembly ensued. The salient points:

- The faculty has now read the final version of the AR Proposal, many people remain concerned that there are no explicit protections for tenure, and the ARP still uses Appendix C
- A representative from the Academic Senate explained that the Senate’s vote was consultative, and that the Senate did not have the power to approve or disapprove the AR Proposal. There is a PowerPoint on the Academic Senate’s website with language to that effect.
- The Motion was approved, with 2 abstentions, and 0 faculty opposing

Dr. Michael Mack presented the results of the recent opinion survey.

- The election used a service called Election Runner, and opened on Thursday 5/24 at 9:15 a.m. and closed on May 28 at 4:15 p.m.
 - 444 ballots were sent out, 3 bounced back; 441 were sent out in total. 4 people experienced technical errors and their votes will be included before the results are finalized.
 - Not including the 4 uncounted votes, there was a total of 175 responses, which is a 40% participation rate.
- There were questions about whether the results could be broken out by faculty status (emeritus, tenured, tenure-track, clinical).
 - Dr. Mack estimated that about 5-10 of the respondents were emeriti, the responses would be broken out and posted on the Faculty Assembly website.

The Faculty Assembly then discussed whether and how to hold a Vote of No Confidence. Salient points included:

- The survey results clearly indicated a lack of confidence in the provost and the president, although there were some concerns about whether the rate of response (about 25% of all surveyed) was low.
- The faculty must decide what is hoped for by advancing a VONC. Several people made the point that it's very important to communicate the results of any vote to the Board of Trustees and to the media, as well as to the organizers of the Save Catholic website.
- It is important to think beyond the VONC, to long-term goals and a multi-pronged approach that includes the VONC, as well as establishing a direct relationship between the faculty and the Board of Trustees, establishing a Faculty Senate, and establishing genuine shared governance.
- The Faculty Assembly represents an unprecedented level of collaboration and representation across schools, and it is important for the University that faculty to have a voice.
- There was a request to formally invite the Board of Trustees to meet with the nominating committee of the Faculty Assembly.

Dr. Donaldson read the VONC motion aloud, and there was a discussion. Salient points included:

- Making sure that the particulars of the motion are completely accurate
- Whether to modify the particulars or delete them
- Ultimately it was decided to conduct two separate Votes of No Confidence (one for the president and one for the provost), and then to hold a separate, electronic vote for the entire faculty.

Two Motions came to the floor:

1. **RESOLVED, that WE, THE FACULTY assembly**, do hereby declare that we have ***NO CONFIDENCE*** in the leadership of Dr. Andrew Abela
 - Voting by secret ballot, those present expressed No Confidence in the Provost by a Vote of 63-0, with 2 abstentions.
2. **RESOLVED, that WE, THE FACULTY ASSEMBLY OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA**, do hereby declare that we have ***NO CONFIDENCE*** in the leadership of Mr. John Garvey
 - Voting by secret ballot, those present expressed No Confidence in the President by a Vote of 62-0, with 1 abstention.

Dr. Donaldson announce that the next meeting of the Faculty Assembly will be next Monday, June 4, from 12 to 2 in McGivney 106.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 2:00 p.m.