

Minutes
The Faculty Assembly
The Catholic University of America
June 18, 2018

The meeting began at 12:02 p.m. with Dr. Linda Plitt Donaldson presiding.

The 36 people present introduced themselves by their School affiliation. Faculty from STRS, Arts & Sciences, Engineering, NCSSS, Law, and the Arts College were present.

The minutes for the June 4 meeting were approved with two abstentions.

The agenda for the June 18 meeting was approved unanimously.

Announcements

Dr. Donaldson summarized the accomplishments of the faculty with regard to Academic Renewal – namely, that the three-tiered structure was removed from the plan, and that the University is not firing tenured faculty at this time. She also outlined the work still to be done, including seeking an affirmation from the administration of its commitment to tenure.

Dr. Donaldson reported that the Faculty Assembly Executive Committee has heard from a number of universities that have expressed solidarity. She read aloud a letter of support from the GWU Faculty Association to which the room erupted in applause. The CUA Faculty Assembly will work towards creating a faculty consortium of regional schools.

Dr. Donaldson encouraged the faculty to evaluate their Deans through the online survey distributed to all faculty. It is important for the faculty to use their voice and provide feedback to the Board of Trustees and the administration. The Faculty Assembly will ask that the quantitative results of these surveys be shared with the faculty.

There was an announcement that the Board of Trustees is open to receiving information from the faculty, and that as far as they are concerned there is no rule prohibiting faculty from contacting Board members.

Discussion of Goals

The assembled faculty held a discussion about the goals of the Faculty Assembly. Proposed goals were:

- Seeking reforms to faculty governance and to the structure of the Academic Senate
- Increasing active participation in the Faculty Assembly
- Establishing an agreed-upon definition of tenure
- Considering a chapter of the AAUP
- Building solidarity with contingent faculty and staff,
- Improving the economic welfare of faculty and others across campus
- Continuing outreach to other universities

Creation of Working Groups

The assembled faculty discussed forming working groups, which will work towards the above goals throughout the summer. The faculty unanimously voted to form the four working groups below, with the caveat that another could be added if necessary. The working groups are:

1) Finance, Economic Welfare, and Budget

Identify and correct inaccuracies in the data advanced by the Administration. Provide accurate analysis of enrollment, revenue, expenses, and fundraising.

2) Academics and Research

Examine and report on potential donor influence on the University and, in particular, on academics, faculty hires, and research.

3) Governance and Policy

Explore and report on how shared governance is structured in other Universities; recommend potential alternative shared governance models for CUA; study and make a recommendation on starting an AAUP chapter.

4) Community, Engagement, and the Media

Formulate a media / thought leadership strategy for the Faculty Assembly.

Other business

The Faculty Assembly will next convene on August 22, from 12-2pm. There will be monthly meetings after that throughout the school year.