

Minutes  
The Faculty Assembly  
The Catholic University of America

October 24, 2018

The meeting began at 12:35 a.m. with Dr. Linda Plitt Donaldson presiding.

The 17 people present introduced themselves by their School affiliation. Faculty from the Schools of Arts & Sciences, Engineering, NCSSS, Nursing, Music, Drama & Art, and Theology & Religious Studies were present.

The agenda for the October 24 meeting was approved unanimously. The minutes for the September 25 meeting were approved unanimously.

The faculty discussed Board Chairman Carlini's response to the Faculty Assembly's follow-up letter of September 21.

- The assembled faculty raised concerns that the provost's statement at the Fall Faculty Luncheon was not sufficiently firm on that matter of tenure.
- The Faculty Assembly will continue to explore the possibility of having representation on the Faculty Senate.
- The Faculty Assembly governance subcommittee will conduct more research about models at other universities for a University ombudsman
- The Faculty Assembly will continue to communicate with the Board of Trustees when necessary

The faculty discussed the communication Linda Plitt Donaldson and the provost regarding the evaluation of Deans.

- The governance subcommittee will look into the matter further.

The faculty were updated on the progress of the Joint Statement of Solidarity between regional universities

- The faculty resolved to continue discussing the possibility of forming an AAUP chapter.

The faculty were updated on the most current statistics related to the University's performance in enrollment and net assets.

- The budget and planning subcommittee will continue to evaluate the available data to assess the University's performance.
- There are significant questions about the reported data on the University endowment
- There continue to be budget and planning issues across the University

The faculty discussed the controversy involving the NCSSS Dean

- A panel appointed by the President is evaluating the Dean's suspension and preparing to decide whether he will be reinstated or not
- The faculty at NCSSS is being interviewed

The faculty discussed problematic hiring practices at the University

- The subversion of the hiring process (in which hiring decisions are made by the upper administration without sufficient consultation by Departments) has been a consistent problem, and continued during the last academic year
- The hiring process at the new Institutes (Center for the Study of Statesmanship, Human Ecology, etc.) may not follow that laid out in the Faculty Handbook
- The Institutes should be evaluated by the Academic Senate and it is not clear when and how they are being assessed, if at all

The meeting concluded at 2:00 p.m.