

Minutes
The Faculty Assembly
The Catholic University of America
February 19, 2019

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

The 20 people in attendance introduced themselves by their School affiliation. Faculty from the Schools of Arts & Science, Engineering; Music, Drama, and Art; NCSSS, and Theology were present.

The agenda for the February meeting was approved unanimously. The minutes for the January 23 meeting were approved unanimously.

The faculty briefly discussed the Faculty Assembly communications strategy. Dr. Tran noted that e-mails sent to the faculty have high open rates and engagement rates, reflecting significant interest in Faculty Assembly communications.

The faculty discussed the Faculty Assembly's response to the dismissal of Dr. Stephen McKenna.

- Dr. Stephen Wright, professor emeritus, submitted a statement regarding Dr. McKenna's dismissal. The statement was read at the meeting and will be posted on the Faculty Assembly website.
- Dr. Ernest Zampelli noted that following the publication of his letter on the Faculty Assembly website last month, he sent an apology to the President and Provost for not copying his statement to both before reading at last month's meeting. He stated the apology was related not to the content of the letter, but for not sending them a copy of the letter in advance. Dr. Zampelli's statement was also published in the CUA Tower last Friday (2/16).
- The faculty discussed the above statements and strategies for disseminating them
- The Faculty Assembly Executive Board presented a Statement regarding Dr. McKenna's dismissal.
 - A Motion was raised that the Executive Board would finalize the statement and send to the Academic Senate. The Motion was unanimously approved.
 - A further Motion was raised to request 1) discussion of issues in Academic Senate, 2) removal of CUA statement from the University website, and 3) an open apology to Dr. McKenna and the University community. The Motion was unanimously approved.
 - A further Motion was raised to send the Faculty Assembly statement to Drs. Bornholdt and Simpson to bring to Senate in their capacity as Board of Trustees representatives. The Motion was unanimously approved.

Updates on Enrollment, UCS, Libraries, Endowment, Governance

- Recruitment & Enrollment
 - Applications are down approximately 8-10%; deposits are behind 2018.
 - Preview Day was well attended last weekend.
- Units and Standards Committee (UCS)

- The UCS will be evaluating best practice guidelines for research universities. Looking at several models of workload distribution.
- The UCS may need more data regarding workload by discipline.
- The UCS Committee status is “advisory” only. This may relate to issues of governance.
- Faculty Library Concerns
 - TRS is working on a statement regarding library concerns.
 - A member brought up that similar library concerns may be relevant to Early Christian Studies and Latin.
- Endowment
 - The Faculty Assembly remains very concerned about endowment issues. It does not seem that the endowment issues have been clearly resolved and evidence does not suggest that CUA has received a “clean bill of health.”
- Middle States Accreditation (Tabled for March meeting)
- Governance Committee chair
 - Dr. Bornholdt announced that she will be assuming position as Dean at Coastal Carolina University and will leave CUA at the end of the semester. She was congratulated by the Faculty Assembly for her new position.
 - As Dr. Bornholdt is leaving the university, there is a need for a new Governance Committee chair. If willing to serve, please contact Dr. Donaldson or members of the Executive Board.

The meeting concluded at 2:00 pm. The next meeting will take place on March 20, from 12:30-2pm.