

Minutes
The Faculty Assembly
The Catholic University of America
March 20, 2019

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

The 18 people in attendance introduced themselves by their School affiliation. Faculty from the Schools of Arts & Science, Engineering; Music, Drama, and Art; NCSSES, Nursing, and Theology were present.

The agenda for the March meeting was approved unanimously. The minutes for the February 19 meeting were approved unanimously.

The Faculty Assembly welcomed representatives from the SGA, Jimmy Harrington and Aaron Mackisey, as well as two representatives from The Tower.

Dr. Julia Young shared a brief history of the Faculty Assembly.

- She noted its formation in 1967 and its mission as a way for faculty to share their concerns about the functioning of the University, as well as its role in advocating shared governance, tenure, and academic freedom.
- She described how the FA reconvened during the 1970s, in the 1980s, again in the early 2000s, and in 2019, and members discussed issues such as curriculum, student retention, faculty salaries, and institutional financial health.

Mr. Harrington and Mr. Mackisey described the rationale behind the SGA Resolution 014.

- They stated that it was drafted in order to address the concerns of students about the role of the Faculty Assembly and to reaffirm student government support for the Academic Senate.
- They clarified that they did not discuss the Resolution with any members of the Faculty Assembly before drafting the Resolution.
- They stated that they would like to listen, get to know the Faculty Assembly, and understand faculty concerns, in order to bring them back to the student body as a whole.

The assembled faculty and the SGA representatives discussed the language of the Resolution, the goals of the Faculty Assembly, and the concerns of CUA faculty with the students.

- Several faculty members stated that the CUA faculty does not have any body, outside of the Faculty Assembly, where the faculty can speak freely and raise concerns. Since Administrators, the GSA, the SGA, and Deans all have their own meetings, the Faculty Assembly serves as such a body.
- The assembled faculty affirmed that the Faculty Assembly supports the Academic Senate.
- Several faculty members shared their perception that the language of the Resolution was inflammatory, and mischaracterized the intent and actions of the Faculty Assembly.
- The SGA representatives stated that the Statements of Professors Emeritus Ernie Zampelli and Steve Wright, which were posted on the Faculty Assembly's website,

consisted of “misinformation” and that was why they had characterized the Faculty Assembly using the language they did.

- Several faculty members shared their concerns that the language of the SGA Resolution mirrored similar descriptions of the Faculty Assembly by the current administration.
- Several faculty described the shared goals of the Faculty Assembly and the SGA (the well-being of the entire University) and expressed their hope that the SGA would modify the language of the Resolution.

Dr. Tran introduced Dr. Jim Greene, former vice provost and dean of graduate studies who chaired/co-chaired the 2010 Middle States accreditation visit and also the 2015 MSCHE interim report.

- Dr. Tran invited current members of the MSCHE steering committee to speak to FA about MSCHE, accreditation, and current progress. These invitations were declined.
- Dr. Greene was asked to speak generally about the MSCHE process and what can be expected over the next year.
- Dr. Green gave a short presentation highlighting the University’s continuous accreditation, described the process and timeline of accreditation, and explained the significance of accreditation for the University.

The meeting concluded at 2:00 p.m.