



FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

THE JESUIT UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Faculty Senate

Presentation from the President

Joseph M. McShane, S.J., addressed the Senate, discussing the following topics:

- **Fundraising:** Last year, the University concluded its “Faith and Hope” financial aid campaign, raising more than \$175 million. This brings total funds raised over the last fifteen years to more than \$820 million. A new campaign, focused on elements of the student experience, has already begun.
- **Rankings:** Various publications have recently issued their rankings of colleges and universities. Fordham is ranked #176 overall in the *Wall Street Journal* and #141 in *Forbes*. In *U.S. News and World Report*, Fordham is ranked #74 among national research universities and #48 among private institutions. Fr. McShane pointed to ratings in the areas of peer assessment, graduation rates, and retention rates as factors that produced this result; work is underway to improve these ratings. He noted that the University’s *U.S. News* ranking is incongruent with the quality of students and faculty.
- **Enrollment:** Fr. McShane described data concerning undergraduate enrollment, which this year was stable overall compared to last year. Several trends are worrying, including a decline in the number of young persons in the Northeast and Rust Belt and a near-halving of undergraduate enrollment from China. Standardized testing scores of incoming students are slightly lower in Fordham College at Rose Hill in comparison to the other undergraduate colleges, and Fr. McShane said investment is particularly needed in FCRH. Enrollment of African-American students is down; enrollment of Hispanic students is up; far more women than men are enrolled across the undergraduate colleges.

Key Conversation: Meet the Provost

Senate President Keller introduced Dennis C. Jacobs, who thanked the Senate for the opportunity to be in a collaborative dialogue, and then shared some of his personal and academic background. Dr. Jacobs said that he sees his role as helping to position Fordham to find its best possible place within U.S. higher education. He noted that Jesuit universities are engaged in both transforming individual students through a rigorous, holistic education and being change agents in society.

- **Strategic Planning:** Dr. Jacobs is looking forward to co-chairing CUSP, along with Peter Stace and Patrick Hornbeck. CUSP is working on two tracks this year: first, prioritizing initiatives for implementation over the next 1–3 years; and second, considering where Fordham, the world, and our students will be a decade from now, and anticipating those needs by positioning Fordham ambitiously in light of our strengths and values. Dr. Jacobs is eager to work with faculty and has asked Patrick Hornbeck to serve as a faculty advisor to him for strategic planning. By the end of the year, CUSP will deliver to the Board of Trustees a concrete plan, including objectives, timelines, metrics, and budgets.

Dr. Jacobs said he welcomes faculty input and indicated that he will be making himself available for conversation in numerous venues. Answering questions, Dr. Jacobs described the next stages of Fordham’s planning process. He said that all searches for deans and other senior academic leaders should be national searches supported by highly experienced search consultants. He highlighted what would be necessary for Fordham to attract greater and more ambitious philanthropic support; in addition, he discussed possible steps regarding academic space.

Senate Input: Social Media Policy / University Marketing and Communications: Senate President Keller shared a proposed revision of the University’s social media policy, which governs official Fordham social media accounts. Senators expressed the need for stronger and clearer statements about preserving academic freedom and for articulating a positive and aspirational tone.

Online and Hybrid Learning Committee Update: Senator Sen, as chair, provided an update on the committee’s work. Agenda items include harmonizing the coding of types of online and hybrid courses being taught, developing a common process for creating online offerings, rationalizing in-house and vendor-based online learning, assessing online learning for mission, and resolving compliance issues.

Procedural Matters and Announcements: The Senate approved the minutes of the two meetings held on May 6, 2019. The Senate approved a slate of nominees for various Senate, Presidential, and University committees, including faculty representatives to the Board of Trustees. Senate President Keller announced that the Salary and Benefits Committee had met, electing Senator Mozes as its chair. Interactions with the administration’s negotiation team have begun. The Key Conversation at the October meeting will be about strategic planning.