



FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

THE JESUIT UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Faculty Senate

Presentation from the President: Joseph M. McShane, S.J., addressed the Senate, wishing a happy Hanukkah, a merry Christmas, and a good end to the semester. He proceeded to discuss these topics:

- **Personnel Changes:** Margaret Ball, Secretary of the University, has now also been appointed General Counsel and will no longer be serving as coordinator of Commencement.
- **New Partnerships:** Fr. McShane announced new partnerships between the University and the New York Giants and Northwell Health. Both will provide placement opportunities for current students and graduates, as well as prospects for the development of new degree programs.
- **Admissions:** The next two weeks will be a critical period, as Early Action and Early Decision results are released. Fr. McShane discussed implications of the rescission of the national admissions code of ethics.
- **Planning:** The Board of Trustees has accepted and endorsed the strategic direction articulated by the CUSP planning committee. Follow up steps will be taken in months ahead. The Board has also approved a new, approximately \$300 million fundraising campaign, which will complement school-based campaigns in Business and Law.
- **Bias Incidents:** Fr. McShane reported on three anti-Semitic incidents at the Lincoln Center campus, which he deplored in the strongest sense. The university's response was immediate.

Presentation from the Provost: Dennis C. Jacobs addressed the Senate, commenting on his recent trip to the People's Republic of China. He described Fordham's strong reputation in China, which has emerged in part from Fordham's being the first U.S. institution to create a joint degree with a Chinese university. Dr. Jacobs commented on his conversations with alumni/ae, with leaders in Chinese universities, and with colleagues at New York University's Shanghai campus. An extensive discussion ensued about opportunities and concerns about potential partnerships between Fordham and institutions in China. Several Senators expressed worries about the effects of Chinese government policies on academic freedom.

Key Conversation: Faculty Composition

Senate President Keller introduced Benjamin Crooker, Associate Vice President for Faculty Personnel in the Office of the Provost, for his annual presentation concerning the composition of the faculty and instructional staff. Dr. Crooker noted that the full-time, tenured and tenure-track faculty is 11 individuals larger this year. There have been a larger than usual number of searches authorized this year, which reflects in part the expiration of the three-year period for the 2017 enhanced phased retirement program. The faculty is also becoming more diverse with regard to race and gender. Discussion ensued about faculty diversity, opportunity hires, the union, and the proportion of sections taught by full-time faculty, graduate students, adjuncts, and other instructors.

Update: Continuous University Strategic Planning

Senate President Keller asked Dr. Jacobs to provide an update concerning the University's strategic planning process. He summarized progress in strategic planning since the October meeting of the Senate, which has included the development of 43 initiatives, the review and structuring of the initiatives under four meta-goals, and the development of a planning document that the Board endorsed at its recent meeting. Next steps will include communication with those who submitted initiatives and with members of the community at large; the development of more detailed plans for finance, development, and facilities; and discussions about Fordham's longer-term aspirations 10 to 30 years from now. Discussion ensued, especially concerning the emphasis on STEM and its relationship to Fordham's existing strengths.

University Tenure Review Committee Elections

The Senate elected the following colleagues to the University Tenure Review Committee: Carl Fischer (Arts and Sciences, Rose Hill), Aseel Sawalha (Arts and Sciences, Lincoln Center), Dawn Lerman (Business), and Lori Wolff (Education). The Senate recommended to the President two nominees for a one-semester replacement member to serve on the University Research Council.

Procedural Matters and Announcements: The Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held on November 4, 2019. Senate President Keller announced that the key conversation for the January meeting of the Senate will focus on student mental health. She also announced that faculty compensation negotiations are ongoing.