March 28, 2022

Dear Father McShane, Trustees, and Members of the Fordham Community,

As a part of the new campus center's dedication, the students of Fordham University at Rose Hill are privileged to reflect upon the tenure of Father McShane. As Cardinal Newman wrote, "with Christians, a poetical view of things is a duty. We are bid to color all things with hues of faith, to see a divine meaning in every event," and so we look to the deeper meaning of this space and its relation to our President's legacy.

As Father McShane embarks upon his next chapter, he leaves behind this campus center as a gift to the generations of students who will continue to join our community. This is a student-oriented space that encapsulates cura personalis: care for the mind, body, and soul. That Jesuit tenet was the hallmark of Father McShane's time at Fordham. Most recently, through a global pandemic and racial justice movement, he has led with grace and courage, applying pastoral vision in a time of uncertainty. His presidency was about emboldening, challenging, and connecting students. He crafted an institution that continually pushed each of its members to seek the magis.

Father McShane cares deeply about students' devotion to this institution, their leadership, their ability to recognize potential in themselves, and their capacity to care for one another. In his analysis of Jesuit teaching, Former Superior General of the Society of Jesus Peter Hans Kolvenbach mentioned that "the real measure of our Jesuit universities lies in who our students become." The McShane Campus Center will further ensure that Fordham students become people for others.

When future students remember Father McShane, this campus center will provide them with the central tenets of his legacy. In career development, student involvement, religious discernment, appreciation of diversity, and academic excellence, students will be exposed to Fordham's creed of continual betterment. They will recall his devotion to expanding opportunities, creating new relationships, caring for this community, and supplying the foundation for each of us to find excellence in what we do.

The students of Fordham University at Rose Hill would like to thank Father McShane for his nineteen years of service as Fordham's President. Jesuit historian Fr. John O'Malley, SJ commented that St. Ignatius wanted Jesuits to go out and "find God in all things." Father McShane, we find meaning here in this new student center: in our peers, in our relationships, in our work, and in our opportunities. We look forward to honoring your legacy by dedicating this space to you.

With gratitude,

The students of Fordham University, Rose Hill
Composed by the United Student Government (USGRH)