

**President's Report and Q&A:**

- The President remarked on the invasion of Ukraine, and the possible effects for members of the Fordham community. He offered his prayers for the people of Ukraine and expressed outrage and sadness along with a hope of restored peace.
- The President shared that he is thrilled with the election of Tania Tetlow as the 33rd President of Fordham University, describing her as a “practical-minded visionary.” He thanked the Faculty members of the search committee for making such a “wise and loving choice” for Fordham.
- The President noted the extreme drop in cases of Covid in our community and indicated that the Emergency Management Team would discuss policies moving forward in light of imminent CDC guidance changes.
- The President updated the Senate on Admissions activity, including successes and challenges in recruiting a diverse student body, distribution of Financial Aid, and regional diversity. In response to questions on this topic, the President noted he is working with John Buckley and the Admissions team, and suggested that the Senate, too, meet with Buckley and Brian Ghanoo for a broader picture of the situation. Some questions from Senators concerned the tuition discount rate and the distribution of aid in respect of recruitment for diversity, and some noted that increasing representation of Indigenous students from around the country would require a broader institutional approach in terms of curricula, support, etc.

Provost's Report and Q&A:

The Provost's report began by echoing Fr. McShane's enthusiasm about the election of Tania Tetlow as our incoming President, and noted that he is looking forward to working closely with her. Discussion then turned to the following topics:

- The ongoing Covid situation is showing considerable improvement, with low case numbers, and a low positivity rate for Fordham and New York City. We have moved from a “High” level of transmission to a “Substantial” level in the area. In light of emerging new CDC guidance on masking and other practices, the Emergency Management Team will be discussing the implications for international travel, including the concerns of Faculty as well as students both here and abroad whose travel has been restricted up to now. In response to a question from a Senator regarding how new guidance might affect event planning on campus (like conferences and workshops), the Provost noted that there could be a change in terms of who is allowed to attend events from outside the Fordham community, as well as changes in terms of the implementation of events (layout, catering, etc).
- The Provost highlighted the Laudato Si' conversation which is underway, noting the many academic areas in which Fordham has much to offer in the broad initiatives of the Vatican program, not only ecology and environmental studies but also human migration, law, theology, business and more.
- The next topic of discussion was Student Experience, particularly two areas of emerging activity in the University: (1) The University is considering a digitally-based component of a “Student Success Hub,” which would give students 24/7 access to information support not only on things like Mental Health, but on all matters of relevance to their progress as a student at Fordham. In his report and in response to questions, the Provost noted that the platform is designed for the complexity of the academic environment and to be highly flexible and individualized to student needs and characteristics. (2) There is ongoing discussion of how to implement the possible changes to undergraduate advising that were explored by a Task Force over the last year, and how models employed at other Universities might be employed at Fordham for a more integrated and effective advising process. In response to a question about details of where this process stands, the Provost noted the College Deans are soliciting feedback from various stakeholders and more decisions would proceed from there.

Report from and Q&A with Marco Valera, Vice President for Administration, on Sustainability:

Mr. Valera shared the history and current situation at Fordham regarding our initiatives to improve sustainability practices in regard to energy production and use, updating and improvement of efficiency in all aspects of facilities and the physical plant, food use, landscaping practices, and more. Since 2007, he noted, Fordham has reduced its carbon dioxide emissions by almost 37% and has produced over 8 million kilowatt hours of energy so far. There are several imminent improvements like increased insulation, changes to the older sections of the McGinley Center, new heat production installations, migration to electric-powered groundskeeping equipment, and more. The state of the soil, trees, and open spaces was noted to be extremely healthy, and new practices will improve these even more. In response to questions about electric vehicle charging, Mr. Valera noted that the public has access to our charging stations via the existing parking garage. Another Senator asked about the generation of electrical energy via carbon-intensive means, and Mr. Valera noted that we are trying to balance the university's shift to more electricity-sourced heat and AC with considerations about sourcing from renewables. Currently our solar projects generate close to 10% of the electricity used by our campuses. The electricity that NYC consumes has about a mix of 35-40% renewable energy, a great deal of that from hydroelectric; the renewable portion is expected to grow significantly over time.

Report from and Q&A with Ed Kull, Director of Athletics:

Mr. Kull expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to meet with the Senate. Mr. Kull shared the ambitions and achievements of the Department of Athletics, and his eagerness to make it an active partner with other areas of the University, including Academics. He noted that Athletics is now undertaking its first-ever Strategic Plan, which he hopes will facilitate these partnerships. Mr. Kull shared the exceptional graduation rates of student athletes, and their success in achieving high GPAs, both of which exceed the general averages at Fordham and place us in a top position for the Atlantic Ten Conference. Mr. Kull outlined a few key initiatives ongoing in Athletics, including the "Mindset Program" (designed to provide mental health and development supports), TEAM Fordham (which provides supports and guidance in various areas of student success at Fordham and beyond), new initiatives with Career Services, and significant student-team-community engagement programs. Mr. Kull filled in the Faculty on the implications of the NCAA's changed rules around Name, Image, and Likeness opportunities for student-athletes, and noted that Fordham is providing a variety of supports and guidance for students around these while not specifically involved in the actual negotiations in which they may be involved. Mr. Kull also noted great success around the Athletics Division Task Force on Diversity, and noted that 35% of students from underrepresented groups are athletes. The Department of Athletics is seeking development initiatives to make its functions more financially independent of the general University budget, and sees the Cura Personalis campaign as one node in the ongoing efforts in this area. In response to questions from Senators about the proportion of the athletics budget that does come from the general University resources (31 million out of a 37 million expense budget for Athletics), Mr. Kull noted that when one brackets considerations like scholarship aid that are comparable to the expenses of other units of the university in recruiting students, of the total university contribution to Athletics, about 13 million are "hard dollars" in University expenditures. When asked about aid packages for athletics that sometimes exceed the total for tuition, room, and board, Mr. Kull noted that some students' packages contain supplemental support for things like travel, books, and other fees. In discussion with Senators about where the NCAA and Fordham stand on the questions around Trans athletes, Mr. Kull noted that NCAA policy is developing, and that currently the main metric involved in classification of student athletes is hormone levels established through medical testing. In a discussion of the status of marquee sports, a Senator noted that the Trustees have expressed a strong commitment to basketball.

Other Matters:

- Proposal from UTRC to change statutory language to facilitate their work regarding hires made with tenure in various positions in the University: President Drummond presented the proposed changes, and there was discussion around the rationale and implementation. The proposal was passed by a vote of 17 Yes, 0 No, and 2 Abstentions.
- Report of the Committee on Student Experience: The CSE has produced a guidance document to help faculty engage in more inclusive classroom practices. The document was produced via statistical and qualitative analysis of student reports of harmful incidents via social media postings in Summer 2020 and a survey of students in the following academic year.

Senator Jones explained the rationale of the document as both a support for positive experience and a mode of accountability to students who want to know their concerns are being addressed. It lays out several general types of engagements and practices that are often experienced as harmful by students belonging to various identity groups and as individuals. Shannon McAllister, from CSE, joined the Senate to expand on information about methodology, results, and formulation of the document. Some Senators expressed concern that the document would have a stifling effect on faculty practices, since it is a list of things not to do; Senator Jones and Prof. McAllister noted that revision of the formulation of the document could reshape it in less negative language and emphasize the things faculty can learn from student reports. Some Senators asked about the implications of this document being endorsed by the Senate, and Jones and McAllister noted that it is advisory rather than authoritative despite any endorsement by the Senate. A Senator brought up the possibility that training might be preferable to such a “best practices” document, and Senator Jones noted that the faculty remain the only body of University personnel not required to be trained around issues of Diversity, and that CSE has strongly endorsed such training to the Senate multiple times in the past to no avail. She also noted that training and this document constitute two areas of accountability for which we are responsible, rather than being an either/or. Another Senator asked about timelines and audience, particularly whether students would have access and how. Senator Jones noted that it may be optimal to share such a document at the beginning of a semester, and that students should probably have access but just how that would work had not yet been discussed by the CSE. Other questions about the formulation and statistical samples involved were also discussed. CSE will continue to revise the document in light of Senate suggestions.

- President Drummond brought forth a resolution to welcome the newly-elected President of Fordham, Tania Tetlow, on behalf of the Faculty. The resolution speaks to the Faculty’s readiness to work with President-elect Tetlow in realizing the aims she enunciated in her statement to the Fordham community. There was discussion around wording, and the Resolution passed by a vote of 14 Yes, 0 No, and 0 Abstentions.
- As time had run out, the agenda item around discussion of the Laudato Si’ initiative was postponed until the March meeting. Senator Jones, who serves on the Laudato Si’ committee, noted that Faculty are strongly encouraged to share their own engagements, initiatives, and visions for Fordham around the many areas encompassed by Laudato Si’, in the intervening weeks until the next Senate meeting because the Laudato Si’ Committee will be doing substantial planning during these weeks. Current work and visions for the future should be shared with Senator Jones and Julie Gaffney (Chair of the Laudato Si’ Committee and Director of the Center for Community Engaged Learning).
- Minutes of the January meeting will be discussed and approved at the March meeting as well due to time running out.