



FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

THE JESUIT UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Faculty Senate

Presentation from the President: Joseph M. McShane, S.J., addressed the Senate and discussed these topics:

- *Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebrations and Museum of Civil Rights:* Fr. McShane reflected on the events the University sponsored to mark the King holiday. He announced the formation of the Museum of Civil Rights in Harlem, on the board of which he sits. He will be inviting the participation of faculty members.
- *American-Irish Presidential Forum:* Fordham will be hosting this event for Republican and Democratic candidates for president, inviting them to reflect on developments in Ireland. The U.K.'s decision to exit the European Union has made Ireland an important topic for conversation this election cycle.
- *Admissions:* Fr. McShane has been traveling in Texas to meet with prospective students and benefactors. Fordham has received 196 Early Decision deposits, and the overall applicant pool remains stable. In general, undergraduate colleges at Rose Hill have received more applications, while undergraduate colleges at Lincoln Center have seen declines from last year. International applications are down, especially from China, and there is new vulnerability in New York State as a result of the expansion of the Excelsior scholarship program. Applications from groups underrepresented in U.S. society are all up.

Provost's Report: In the absence of Dennis C. Jacobs, Jonathan M. Crystal presented the Provost's report.

- *Faculty Personnel Processes:* In consultation with the deans and the Senate Executive Committee, the Provost's Office has developed a process to support those faculty who are applying for promotion after they have received tenure. In cases where a unit has changed its promotion norms three years or fewer before a faculty member applies for promotion, the applicant may elect to be assessed under either the previous or the current version of the norms. Applicants and personnel committee chairs will sign a form recording this election at the time of application.
- *Block Schedule:* The current Fordham block schedules date from fall 2003, and faculty and others have questioned whether the schedule facilitates the optimal use of our limited space on both campuses. The Provost's Office will be assembling a group including faculty, associate deans, and colleagues from the registrar's office to examine the block schedule and make recommendations.
- *GSAS Dean Search:* Applications are being received, and the search committee will interview a first round of candidates in early March. Campus visits, which will include forums open to all members of the faculty, will follow in late March.

Key Conversation: Mental Health at Fordham

Senate President Keller introduced Jeffrey Ng, Psy.D., Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, and Yael Uness, Psy.D., Assistant Director of Counseling and Psychological Services at Lincoln Center, for a presentation and discussion concerning mental health. Dr. Ng noted that mental health issues have become increasingly salient in higher education and shared national data. 66% of college students report experiencing overwhelming anxiety, an equal percentage report feeling very lonely, 13% have seriously considered suicide, and 2% have made a suicide attempt in the past year. Fordham's experience parallels these data. Dr. Ng reported that the utilization of campus services has increased dramatically in recent years. He reviewed a series of best practices for faculty. An extensive discussion ensued, covering matters including student retention, referrals to off-campus providers, the impact of grading practices on mental health, and the need for educating and forming faculty to respond to routine mental health issues. Senators who had taken the online Kognito training praised it but noted that buy-in from the faculty at large has been somewhat limited. The Senate encouraged departments and schools to make time in faculty meetings to discuss student mental health and perhaps even to take the Kognito training in groups.

Proposed Statutory Revision: Committee on Student Experience

Senate President Keller introduced Senator Jones, as chair of the Student Life Committee, who proceeded to present the committee's proposal for a revision of its title, composition, and statutory charge. The Senate amended and approved the proposal (15-0-0), recommending to the Board of Trustees the text of a revised statute charging a "Committee on Student Experience."

Procedural Matters: The Senate approved the minutes of the meeting held on December 6, 2019.