

On April 30th, the faculty of the School of Theology & Religious Studies met and issued the following resolution regarding the possible termination of tenured faculty as proposed by the University's plan for Academic Renewal:

The Faculty of the School of Theology and Religious Studies, while supportive of the effort to promote academic excellence and put the University on a financially sustainable path, is strongly opposed to any effort to involuntarily terminate tenured faculty outside of the specific grounds for such actions specified in the Faculty Handbook (i.e., "demonstrable incompetence or dishonesty in teaching or research, for manifest neglect of duty, or for other adequate cause." See II-G-7.193 in the version approved most recently by the Academic Senate May 10, 2017 and by the Board of Trustees June 6, 2017). In our view such an action is contrary to the understanding of tenure which exists in American higher education and which has been upheld in U.S. courts. Such an action will undermine faculty morale, harm the University's reputation, and set a dangerous precedent for the future operation of the Catholic University of America. We urge this not only as a matter of law but of justice.

This resolution was passed by secret ballot with 20 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 1 faculty member abstaining.