



## MEMORANDUM

TO: JCU Board of Directors  
Mission & Identity Committee

FROM: *SEM* Sheila E. M<sup>c</sup>Ginn, Ph.D.  
Professor & Chair, Department of Theology & Religious Studies  
Faculty Representative

RE: Report on Faculty Initiatives

DATE: 25 September 2018

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1. The College of Arts & Sciences spent last spring and the summer months discussing mission and identity questions as they pertain to developing the strategic goals and objectives for the next few years. The report was presented to the new President soon after his inauguration.
2. The Breen Chair in Catholic Theology is sponsoring the third annual “Theology for Teachers” in-service workshop on Friday, October 12. Last year's day-long event drew to campus 91 high school theology teachers from 29 different Catholic Schools in 7 different dioceses in the Midwest.
3. The Tuohy Endowment is sponsoring two public lectures this fall to include our year-and-a-half long focus on “Religion, Nationalism, and Political Repression.” The event on 09/13, entitled “Women of the Wall: Freedom to worship at the *Kotel*,” hosted Rabbi Rachel Sabath Beit Halachmi speaking on the Israeli “Women of the Wall” movement and its relationship to religious freedom in the State of Israel. The lecture on October 18 will feature returning scholar Archbishop Michael L. Fitzgerald, MAfr, speaking on “The Situation of Christians in the Arab World: How Interreligious Dialogue Can Help.” These lectures are co-sponsored by the Peace, Justice, & Human Rights (PJHR) and several academic departments, particularly Political Science. The first fall lecture drew a substantial audience of students and members of the wider Cleveland community (~150 people).
4. The 2019 Lassiter “Continuing the Dream” Award competition will open next week.
5. Several faculty are working with Campus Ministry to host a series of dialogues about the sex abuse crisis in the Catholic church.
6. The Core Curriculum committee is concerned about sustainability of the linked course requirement now that the initial three-year period of offerings is ending. New links are being sought to take the place of those that will “time out.”
7. Over 20 new faculty have been hired this fall, but only 4 of those hires are tenure-track. Faculty continue to be concerned about unsustainable work levels due to committee service and other work that is not shared by temporary faculty. Faculty Council and many other committees have unfilled rosters that will make work difficult if not impossible. This concern needs to be addressed.