



11 March 2021

President Michael D. Johnson
John Carroll University
president@jcu.edu

William Donnelly, Chair of the Board

Provost Steven Herbert
herbert@jcu.edu

Dear President Johnson, Chair Donnelly, and Provost Herbert,

I write as Executive Director of the largest professional association in the humanities and as someone with thirty years of experience in national higher education programs and processes to ask that you rethink the recent decision to undermine shared governance and the position of the humanities at John Carroll University.

US colleges and universities have long depended on the principles of academic freedom, tenure, and shared governance, in support of research and teaching. The American Association of University Professors' 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure has been the standard for higher education in this country since it was written, and abandoning the principle of tenure is to all intents and purposes removing one's institution from the community of quality American nonprofit higher education institutions.

The dangers to the humanities disciplines at John Carroll are very real if a commitment to liberal arts education and shared governance as your guiding principle is abandoned. A liberal arts education, especially one in the Jesuit tradition, depends on a commitment to the humanities. And, as the Jesuit tradition makes clear, education for leading a good life means not only personal enrichment but developing a foundation for service to others. Career education alone cannot provide this foundation—it depends on the humanities, including languages, literature, history, philosophy, and religious studies. And a commitment to those fields means a commitment to programs and faculty in those fields.

The MLA stands ready to help John Carroll with resources for building enrollments in humanities disciplines, helping with curriculum, strengthening department and program leadership, and contributing in any way we can. Please feel free to reach out to the MLA for more information or resources. As a former dean and as a director of a nonprofit, I understand the financial constraints under which you are operating. I know your faculty members understand those constraints as well, and I urge the board and administration of John Carroll to work with the

faculty and not separately in addressing financial realities while maintaining the soul of the institution.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula M. Krebs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paula" being the most prominent.

Paula M. Krebs
Executive Director