



# SOCIETY FOR CLASSICAL STUDIES

ΨΥΧΗCΙΑΤΡΟCΤΑΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΑ

FOUNDED IN 1869 AS THE AMERICAN PHILOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

11 March 2021

William Donnelly, Chair  
Board of Directors  
John Carroll University

Dear Mr. Donnelly,

I am writing on behalf of the Society for Classical Studies (SCS), the principal professional organization of classicists in North America, to express alarm at the “budgetary hardship” amendment recently approved by your Board, which sets a bar for termination of tenured faculty members far lower than the “financial exigency” that has long been the norm in American higher education. The SCS supports the principles on academic freedom and tenure as [stated](#) by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and long honored throughout American higher education. We endorse the statements published by our fellow organizations on the [savejcu.org](http://savejcu.org) website, and we join your faculty in urging you to abandon this amendment, which poses a greater threat to the future health of John Carroll than any temporary budget shortfalls.

Academic freedom and tenure are of fundamental importance, indeed the basis upon which America has achieved pre-eminence in higher education. Without its protections, faculty are at constant risk of arbitrary termination, with chilling and destructive effects on their ability to conduct groundbreaking research and provide state-of-the-art teaching. To enable termination of the appointments even of leading faculty members at any time and for any reason would surely inhibit the free flow of ideas, the building of stable departments, and the continuity necessary to conduct quality research and effectively teach students. The result for the university would surely be difficulty in attracting and retaining talented faculty, in securing research funding, in assuring current and potential students of a high-quality education with teachers and mentors who can be counted on to be there when they need them, and in living up to the

expectations of our broader society, not least the Jesuit community that you have so honorably served. Academic freedom and tenure should be a line that no institution should be tempted to cross on any grounds short of actual exigency. Furthermore, members of your faculty accepted their positions in reliance on the existing policy, which was that in place at other institutions; this change is deeply unfair to them. Of course the pandemic has caused financial crises in higher education, but that is why the traditional policy allows for the declaration of financial exigency.

We therefore urge and implore the JCU Board to reconsider and abandon its policy decision to degrade the bedrock principles of academic freedom and tenure, as we encourage other institutions and associations of higher education to maintain support of these principles.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelley P. Haley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Shelley P. Haley, President, SCS, 2021  
Edward North Chair of Classics  
Hamilton College, Clinton NY 13323

cc: Michael Johnson, President; Steven Herbert, Provost and Academic Vice President