

Dear Executive Committee Members of the Council for Faculty Affairs and Faculty Welfare Committee Co-chairs,

I am responding on behalf of Manhattan College's Board of Trustees to your letter regarding the recent vote of no confidence in President Rivero.

The Board respects the CFA's right to evaluate the College's leadership and poll the faculty on issues and appreciates the feedback of the entire faculty. We do, however, respectfully disagree with the reasons provided which supported the vote. Additionally, while we recognize the impact of the necessary actions taken by President Rivero and his team have had on our valued faculty, the Board of Trustees unanimously stands by those decisions which were taken to ensure the long-term financial stability of the College and its ability to pursue its mission for generations of students to come.

As you know, pursuant to the College's by-laws, the President is elected by the Board and serves at its discretion. The Board specifically chose to elect Dr. Rivero as Manhattan College's President last summer due to his unique skillset, long-term vision for the College, and his ability to help Manhattan College address the challenges we and other similar institutions continue to face as a result of the effects of the pandemic. We have all seen firsthand that students are taking less traditional approaches to college, and Manhattan College needs to evolve in a way that allows our school and mission to remain relevant and agile in this changing landscape.

Dr. Rivero's plan, which was presented to and endorsed by the Board, includes a number of difficult but necessary steps to put the College on solid financial footing and focus our resources on the areas that are delivering the greatest value for our students and the entire College community both now and in the future. This plan was the culmination of directives by the Board over the last two years to the administrations of both Brother Dan Gardner and Dr. Rivero to address systemic financial imbalances that have detrimentally affected Manhattan College. As the body authorized to oversee long range plans for the College and to approve policies affecting faculty, administration, staff, and students, we had numerous deliberations with Dr. Rivero about the school's challenges and his strategy to address them with the faculty and our community of students. We understand that not everyone will agree with the outcome, but we believe that the steps the administration has taken were appropriate and necessary.

Importantly, the Board and the administration has been and remain committed to treating impacted individuals with the utmost respect and fairness. Engagement with our faculty, staff and students remain essential throughout this process, and, as we have in the past, we welcome your perspectives as we continue to focus on the best interest of our entire College community.

As a longtime member of the Manhattan College community, Dr. Rivero shares our passion for this institution, its mission, and its values. For these reasons, the Board of Trustees remains unequivocally in support of President Rivero, his team and their approach to preserving the Lasallian Catholic values of the College.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Squeri
Chair
Manhattan College Board of Trustees