

**Report of the *Diploma Committee*,
an *ad hoc* committee of the Faculty Forum
10/30/02**

1. Committee Members

Vergheese Chirayath
Patrick Mooney, Chair
Leo Schneider
Ernie Dezolt, *ex officio*

2. Charge

To consider the text of the diploma presently awarded to graduate of John Carroll University to determine if it is unique; whether or not the uniqueness is problematic; and, if so, to recommend an alternative wording for our diploma text.

3. Findings and Recommendations

- A. The committee believes that the JCU diploma text is unique compared to the diploma texts of many of the other Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States. While the other diploma texts only confer upon the graduate the relevant degree, the John Carroll diploma also distinguishes between JCU graduates others. (Supporting documents are attached.)
- B. The committee believes that the JCU diploma text is problematic. While not the impetus of the committee's work, the recommended changes in wording will remove some unnecessary distinctions between the JCU diploma and the diplomas of the other American Jesuit schools. The committee believes that the JCU diplomas is problematic for the following reason.

The University's conferral authority extends only to its own students, so reference to non-JCU graduates seems to be a *non-sequitur*. The committee therefore believes that the present wording of the diploma invites unnecessary evaluative comparisons between JCU graduates and others.

- C. The committee recommends that the JCU diploma be reworded so as to *omit* any reference to non-JCU graduates. We recommend that this be achieved in the following way:

From the present diploma, omit the word "others" in line 6, all of line 8, and the words "a like education" in line 9. The relevant lines of the diploma appear below. The committee's recommended changes are those words and phrases in strikethrough font.

- 1) The Trustees of
- 2) John Carroll University
- 3) To all who see this diploma
- 4) Greeting in the Lord
- 5) Since it is a sound practice established by our forefathers
- 6) That those who excel ~~others~~ in talent and learning should be elevated
- 7) To the academic honors they merit,
- 8) ~~By which they are distinguished from those not possessed of~~
- 9) ~~A like education~~, we, using the power invested in us by the state of Ohio
- 10) In this matter, inform all to whose notice this diploma may come that

Etc. . . .

- D. Since we understand that there will soon be a change in the diploma template anyway, the committee's recommended rewording comes in a timely way.

Respectfully Yours,

Diploma Committee
Vergheese Chirayath
Patrick Mooney, Chair
Leo Schneider
Ernie Dezolt, *ex officio*