At a recent meeting, I presented my last official report to the faculty. I told them that it has been my distinct honor to serve two terms as faculty president. I told them that I was grateful to have had the privilege to get to know so many colleagues across the campus, to have worked with them in shaping academic programs and policies, to hear their issues and to strategize with them on ways to address our challenges. I recalled our many achievements in the past two years: our hard work on shared governance, institutional committees, and in departments to develop new programs and courses to serve our students – undergraduate and graduate programs for physician assistants, business administration, exercise science, sustainability studies, sport and recreation management, and graphic design, among others. I commended our dedicated efforts to deliver classes and study-away experiences that effectively engage our students and develop their critical skills, their cultural sensitivity and their professionalism. In fact, faculty have created 38 new domestic and international cross-cultural experiences. I noted the exciting research we have undertaken and the scholarship we have produced that demonstrate our reach for excellence among peers in our disciplines; this year, 27 faculty produced 33 publications – books and articles, most peer-reviewed nationally, with many more publications under review. Celebrate Carroll featured 206 and faculty presentations. I also articulated my concerns as we move forward to meet the demands of our institutional success and emphasized our commitment to the students, to our institution and to shared governance. And I promised my colleagues that I would carry this message to Board of Trustees: you can rest assured in the inspiring talent and dedication of Carroll’s faculty.

I also promised my colleagues that I would voice two widespread concerns: one remains the salary issue. I know there are multiple ways of looking at the numbers and identifying peer institutions for comparison. But these multiple perspectives cannot mitigate faculty salary frustration. I hope we can work together to address this issue. The second, and more important, concern is the kind of institution we want to be, the kind of institution we are becoming given the increasing imbalance of majors. At a recent faculty meeting, my colleagues voted on a proposal for a Masters of Science in Exercise Science – a 3+2 program that allows students to complete undergraduate and graduate degrees in five years. This model of condensing undergraduate programs and linking them to graduate programs is, of course, increasingly common nationally and at Carroll. But as the ratio widens here between professional and liberal arts programs, as mainstays of a liberal arts education bend to the pressures of vocational training, as we fall behind the national average in credits dedicated to liberal arts general education and create programs that increasingly limit students’ ability to explore a wide range of knowledge, we might sacrifice time-honored principles of a liberal arts education to changing job market trends. After a long, impassioned and thoughtful debate, the recent proposal for a Masters in Exercise Science passed by a vote of 43 to 39. That number suggests a faculty and institution genuinely concerned about the choices we all face every day as we shape the character of our institution.

As faculty president, I have taken on faith my role and responsibility to speak candidly about faculty issues and institutional concerns. It has been my distinct honor to share with the administration and you, the trustees, the stewardship of our institution. As I emphasized sincerely in my first address to the board almost two years ago and in every subsequent report, we have much to celebrate. Our growth and achievements across the institution are everywhere visible. The faculty is proud to be part of that. I trust that we can continue to move forward with courage and wisdom, acknowledging both our success and our obligation to the liberal arts legacy of Carroll.

Now I am delighted to introduce and to pass on the torch to our next faculty president, Dr. Kristen Lampe, associate professor of mathematics.