Mission and Identity Committee Meeting
Board of Trustees
Loyola University New Orleans

Thursday, May 13, 2010

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Octavia II/ Danna Center

Agenda

- Call to Order (Jerry Cavanagh, S.J.)
- Opening Prayer
- Approval of Minutes (March 11, 2010 meeting)
- Strategic Plan: One Year Later (A review)
  - Guest: Scott Porot (Jesuit Center Fellow)
- Report: Office of Mission & Ministry/ University Ministry
  (Rev. Ted Dziak, SJ Vice-President of Mission & Ministry and Kurt Binewald, Director of University Ministry)
- Closing Prayer Kurt Binewald
Opening of Meeting / Prayer by Rhonda Brehm

Approval of Minutes / Minutes from December 3, 2009, approved

Hiring for Mission: Presentation & Discussion
- Dr. Ed Kvet, Provost
- Dean Don Boomgaarden, MFA
- Dean JoAnn Cruz, HuNS

Dr. Kvet began the discussion by admitting that hiring for mission is one of the most difficult questions facing many universities not just Loyola. We should define the institution first. Make our mission available to faculty candidates and educate our search committees of what to look for in new candidates. What are we looking for?

- Dean Cruz, has used these questions in faculty interviews:
  - Why are you interested in a small liberal arts Jesuit institution?
  - What is Cura Personalis
  - Understanding the Common Curriculum in Jesuit education.
  - Community outreach: local, USA, International
  - Do they realize the freedom accorded faculty at a Jesuit institution?

- Dean Boomgaarden, coming from five years at Loyola Maryland, told the committee that he had to write an essay after reading the mission statement on the webpage. He also had ongoing new faculty orientation and a pilgrimage to Spain & Italy were offered.

All three agree that it is a very complex issue, where to begin, how to proceed. Below are some comments / questions that came from this presentation:

There are different levels of faith, a person’s personal faith may not be what the institution is looking for but the person is able to give as part of the larger group
what the institution needs. There also needs to be further clarification of mission on institutional level. [Gerlich]

The status of Kate Lawrence’s booklet was requested. [LeBlanc] Fr. Ted told the committee that Kate was still working to complete the booklet. It will be done soon.

Another question is how do we handle hiring in terms of Catholicism; this also needs to be discussed. It can have a negative side for some faculty, causes fear for some. [Sukoup]

Some Catholics don’t fit with Jesuit mission. [Bowler]

There needs to be discernment by the search committees when addressing this issue. [Cruz]

Be intentional, Jesuit makes us different. We need to create programs that offer education in Jesuit/Catholic traditions and reach out to the Archdiocese.

Dean Boomgaard has begun work on a new Liturgical Music program in the College of Music. He has met with Archbishop Aymond to discuss his plans. The Archbishop was pleased and supportive of this idea.

When do faculty candidates see the mission statement? Do we send it out in a packet of information? [Cavanagh]

As of now we presume they read it on the webpage. [Cruz & Boomgaard]

The Math department had 107 applications for one position. They would like to send out such a booklet to the top 10 candidates if it were available. [Calzada]

Could an atheist be hired for mission? [Barbas]

I have professors who are atheists. It does not affect my classes. [Kammer]

A new hire is given the faculty handbook before they sign their contracts. By signing the contract they agree with the mission of the University. [Cruz]

Mid career faculty benefit greatly from offering education on University mission as faculty development. [Cruz & Boomgaard]

Also offering spiritual retreats to faculty. [Cruz]
Is participating in mission considered in the tenure process? [Bindewald]

Tenure process evaluates many things, teaching, mentoring students, service to University, department, etc. [Cruz]

Report: Office of Mission & Ministry / University Ministry
These comments were offer along with the written report given to the committee.

Hope for Haiti / Along with the undergraduates, the Law school is developing its own program for Haiti. There has been a relationship with the law school in Haiti and Loyola’s Law school for a number of years now. They are in dialogue about help for current crisis and ongoing. We have offered help not only for buildings and materials but assistance for the faculty, staff and students.

Awakening Retreat / Kurt reported that on this most recent Awakening retreat there were a large number of “non-regulars” who were very thankful that they made the decision to attend before they graduated. Some students remarked that they were grateful they hadn’t been pushed and prodded to be more active in retreats.

Lenten Retreat in Daily Life / Kurt shared that this three-week retreat has 47 faculty/staff and students participating and they meet weekly with a spiritual director. We were fortunate to have Jesuits, staff members and religious sisters volunteer their assistance with spiritual direction.

This committee is very interested in an ongoing program to educate the Board of Trustees on Mission. Fr. Dziak and Fr. Wildes are in dialogue about offering a Mission and Identity retreat hopefully for the March 2011 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Kurt Bindewald, Director of University Ministry.
OFFICE OF MISSION & MINISTRY
Report to the Mission & Identity Committee of the Board of Trustees
May 13, 2010

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE/GOAL: JESUIT VALUES 1.1
To provide all members of the Loyola community with orientation and ongoing formation in University’s Jesuit/Catholic identity.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE/GOAL: JESUIT VALUES 1.2
To ensure that the University’s Jesuit/Catholic Mission & Identity finds expression in academic affairs.

IMPLEMENTATION:
- Hired half-time M&M staffperson (Judy Deshotels) [August 2009] to initiate conversations and programs for faculty & staff relating to the school’s Jesuit & Catholic mission and identity.
- Hired student interns (Rebecca Gardner & Eric Walsh/COB) to assist in facilitation and expansion of Jesuit Center activities (Loyola Week/ Lenten Series, etc) for faculty/staff/ students and alumni.
- Facilitated and expanded Jesuit/Catholic component in new faculty orientation (breakfast with guest speakers each August) and in new staff orientation (monthly session with Human Resources).
- Implemented Jesuit/Catholic M&I workshops for all offices (divisions) and colleges. (130 total staff participants and 115 total faculty participants). In addition, facilitated sessions at four College faculty meetings and Faculty Academy on the importance of mission & identity efforts for faculty.
- Implemented Jesuit/Catholic workshops for faculty on implementing Ignatian pedagogy into curriculum.
- Facilitated fall & spring discussions on Conversations magazine topics (for faculty & staff).
- Facilitating an Ignatian Reading Group for faculty/staff in 2010-2011.
- Facilitated a workshop on Ignatian techniques to remain spiritually healthy at the Staff Conference Day.
- Facilitated Jesuit Values & Vision of Education sessions for student leaders (Ambassador & Res Life staff) and for COB and theater freshmen and MBA Orientation & Evening Orientation.
- Initiating immersion trip for faculty/staff and alumni to Jamaica [in May 2010] and another immersion trip in May 2011 to Belize (facilitated by Dr. Tom Ryan).
- Expanded involvement of faculty/staff in national Jesuit / AJCU programs:
  - Ignatian Collegues program: LIM Director Tom Ryan & Faculty John Sebastian (2009-2010)/ AVP Robbie Reed and Nursing Director Ann Carey (2010-2011)
  - Heartland Delta/ Cincinnati [May 2010] (Eighteen faculty/staff participating)
- Initiated and continuing to expand spiritual offerings for faculty/staff:
  - Advent Day of Recollection for all faculty/staff [December 2009]
- **Lenten Retreat in Daily Life** (faculty/staff & students) [February/March 2010]
- **Three-day Directed Retreat at Jesuit Spirituality Center**/ Grand Coteau, [May 2010]

**Planning Jesuit/Catholic retreat for Board members** [March 2011].

**Planning an Ignatian Pilgrimage to Loyola, Spain & Rome** [May 2011] for faculty/staff/and Board.

- Facilitated the second year of a four-year comprehensive and development student Retreat Program (Laura Quigley). Also facilitated improved retreat leader training.

- Continued growth in Christian Life Communities (CLCs) with a new “generation” of group facilitators emerging from the sophomore and freshmen classes.

- Hired a new Associate Chaplain (Ken Weber) for music and liturgy, revitalizing student attendance and participation in campus liturgies and improving the quality of music and increasing the number of student vocalists and instrumentalists. Also, initiated increased collaborative efforts with the College of Music and Fine Arts and its new Dean, Don Boomgaarden.

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**STRATEGIC INITIATIVE/GOAL: JESUIT VALUES 1.3**

To raise community-based learning (volunteer service/service-learning) to a higher profile and more fully integrate it with academics and Jesuit values.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Began planning of new Center for Volunteer Service. This new Center will:
  - allow easier and better access to service-related opportunities;
  - bring service to a higher profile at Loyola while linking service in a holistic way to academics and Jesuit values;
  - provide meaningful experiences that would deepen their commitment to Loyola, New Orleans and the Jesuit mission, increasing student retention.

- Hired full-time Jesuit Center Fellow (Scott Porot) [August 2009] to initiate the planning for a new Center of Volunteer and Public Service. The new Jesuit Fellow has:
  - Initiated dialogues with 49 community partners, faculty, staff, and students to assess what the needs and resources are of Loyola when it comes to Volunteer Service.
  - Initiated fundraising activity, including the submission of a $55,000 grant proposal to the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities for a campus-wide service faith and justice reflection program.
  - Explored transportation needs of the new Center including the development of a partnership with Tulane to share a transportation system.
  - Explored data collection including options for volunteer management software to handle collection.
  - Investigated larger “foundational partnerships” with local and national nonprofits including the St. Bernard Project and Invisible Children.

- Increased immersion programs to respond to the record numbers of students applying to the Ignacio Volunteer immersion trips to Belize and Jamaica. New programs have begun exposing students to wet land reclamation efforts in Louisiana (“Bayou Immersion” over spring break) and along the Texas/Mexico border (“El Paso Experience” in May).
• Hiring a new *Immersion Program Coordinator* [August 2010]. The responsibilities of Associate Chaplain Josh Daly will focus full-time on faith and justice issues beyond the university and within, continuing to mentor student leaders in LUCAP (Loyola Community Action Program) while strengthening the university’s commitment to sustainability issues.

• Started the application to the *Carnegie Classification in Civic Engagement*, working with the Office of the Provost, Service-Learning, and Student Affairs to coordinate Loyola’s application.

**STRATEGIC INITIATIVE/GOAL: JESUIT VALUES 1.4**

To collaborate with the Jesuit network of schools nationally & internationally.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Began collaborative relationship with *Center for International Education (CIE)* and the *Center for Caribbean and Latin American Studies* to develop pilot projects that allow Loyola to initiate an outreach to Jesuit-related institutions and projects in Central and South America.

- Initiated dialogue with the *Missouri Jesuit Provincial* and the *Belize Jesuits* to explore possibilities for further expansion of projects and programs.

- Began exploring **expansion of our international immersion trips** into other countries, such as Honduras, Haiti and even Uganda in the near future.

- Initiated an *Ignacio Volunteer scholarship*, supporting a graduate (Chris Knibbs) of the Jesuit high school in Jamaica. Chris is now on full-scholarship with M&M supporting his room and board. Scholarships to two Mayan youth in Belize to attend junior college for teaching credentials have also been awarded.

*TAD 4/20/10*