

8-24-2004

The Troubadour, Issue 18 (August 24, 2004)

Cardinal Stritch University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.stritch.edu/troubadour>

Recommended Citation

Cardinal Stritch University, "The Troubadour, Issue 18 (August 24, 2004)" (2004). *Troubadour*. 23.
<https://digitalcommons.stritch.edu/troubadour/23>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Newsletters at Stritch Shares. It has been accepted for inclusion in Troubadour by an authorized administrator of Stritch Shares. For more information, please contact smbagley@stritch.edu.

THE TROUBADOUR

August 24, 2004

Issue 18

Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

As we begin another “traditional” academic year, I want to update you on the progress of our initiatives underway in the past several years and to focus specifically on one of them, our Visioning/Planning Process initiative.

You will recall that an “Academic Year 2003-2004” single sheet calendar was distributed University-wide so that everyone could have an overview of what was happening month by month from August 2003 to September 2004. That calendar focused on four major initiatives: the Bonaventure construction, the North Central Reaccreditation process and visit, the Quality Initiative, and the Visioning/Planning Process.

1) The North Central Reaccreditation process and visit is over and the visiting team, as you all know, has recommended a full ten-year reaccreditation. We have to file two status reports over the next three years on how our strategic planning is coming along, but that is all. Again, I thank all of you who worked so hard on the process. It was an achievement that benefits ALL of us immeasurably.

2) The work on Bonaventure continues, and there will be periodic updates as we finish the first phase later this fall.

3) The Quality Improvement Initiative, undertaken to increase communication and decision-making processes at all levels, is underway and will be an ongoing part of University life. We now have an email newsletter, The Troubadour. Last October and November a series of listening sessions held by me and by members of the administrative board generated ideas for increasing communications at all levels, changes in decision-making processes and the evaluation process for administrative board members. Many of these ideas are in place or will be in place for this coming year.

4) **The Visioning/Planning Process also continues, and that process is the main focus of this letter to you.**

In beginning the process to articulate “a common vision, a common language to describe our future and a common commitment to own and realize it,” we did the following:

- ❖ Created and disseminated a timeline giving a glimpse of the major changes since 1937 and a picture of our current reality.
- ❖ Held a series of 13 input-gathering sessions asking, “What do we do best at Stritch?” “What should we do less of (or more of)?” and “What should we be doing new that we are not doing now?”
- ❖ Established a visioning committee consisting of representatives from the faculty, staff, administration, trustees, students and alumni. This committee has met a number of times to reflect on the information gathered and to listen to the insights and observations of each member. A vision statement has emerged from this yearlong process that is now ready to be brought to the larger Stritch community for discussion.

In my April 27 message to you in The Troubadour, I noted that the visioning committee “decided to wait until the fall to roll out presentation of the statement draft to the campus community,” and that “we will go through a series of steps with all of you, to ensure that every one of you understands our purpose, has a chance to — in conversation sessions with your campus colleagues — reflect on the vision and (the) guiding principles (on which it is based), and to offer feedback.”

Following the conversations around the vision, we will then move to the strategic planning that moves the vision forward in a concrete manner.



Here are the steps for the rest of the visioning process and the strategic planning phase:

August 13 through September: Meetings will take place around the vision statement and the guiding principles on which it is based, seeking feedback and ownership. Initial conversations will be within homogeneous groups; colleges and staff units will determine their meeting time, and we encourage that at least two to three hours be set aside for quality conversation and sharing. Some smaller staff units may choose to meet with a larger group for this initial gathering. Most colleges and staff units may choose to use regularly scheduled meeting time for their initial conversation time.

A second meeting will have a mix of faculty and staff so as to engage a broader perspective and new voices around the conversation. This second round of conversational meetings will be held on Friday, September 24 from 3:10-5 p.m. Rooms will be provided for groups of between 20 and 30 faculty and staff. Facilitators, materials and a scribe will be provided for all meetings. Results from the meetings will be given to the visioning committee. The committee will meet, review the feedback and bring forward the final vision statement.

October 26: The vision statement will be presented to the Board of Trustees for their approval.

The visioning committee will transition to become the strategic planning committee.

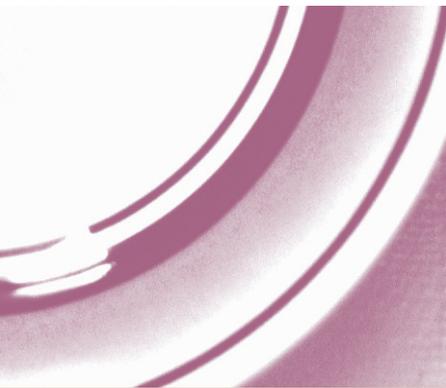
November 12: All-University Assembly. This will include presentation of the vision statement and an explanation of the next steps leading into strategic planning based on the vision. Information packets with data and statistics about the University will be distributed in preparation for the next step of strategic planning.

November 20: Strategic Planning Day for the University. The process to be used will be a modified “open space” process. This is a Saturday. We need at least a full day to engage in discussion about our future. We will be focused on a broad picture of the University’s future, with discussion around various scenarios of our possible futures, rather than the more focused planning each college and unit does on a yearly/regular basis. I strongly encourage each of you to calendar in this day. Make it a priority, be present. Bring your energy and passion, your expertise and experience, your dreams and images of what our future could be and should be.

Without your presence, our collective wisdom will be diminished. With you, we can together articulate a realizable, sustainable and mission-driven future. We need your voice, your perspective, your hopes, your dreams.

January 10: The full strategic planning committee will meet to review the results of the open space process held in November, and further steps in the spring semester will continue moving the planning process forward. More on those steps will be forthcoming.

As we welcome the beginning of the academic year 2004-2005, let us come together, joined by a challenging and compelling vision, creating a future that will take our Franciscan mission from good to great! Let the journey begin — together. God’s blessings on each of you and the work you do to enable our mission of transforming lives through value-centered education. It is my privilege to work with you.



As the new academic year is about to start, faculty and staff are encouraged to please return any University china, everyday dishes, flatware, trays, pitchers, or tongs that they may have in their offices to the food services area.

**Mark
your calendar**

