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The Troubadour, Issue 30 (March 15, 2005)

Cardinal Stritch University

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THE TROUBADOUR

March 15, 2005

Issue 30

Strategic planning subcommittees fleshing out goals, direction

Representatives of the committees involved in the University's strategic planning process met for a half day Friday, March 4, in the Sister Camille Kliebhan Conference Center to flesh out work they have done to date and come to some commonality about direction.

In addition to the core committee, the group includes subcommittees on: relational culture, Franciscan culture, student planning, organizational systems and the learning community. Each is examining, with regard to Stritch: where are we now, where are we going, how will we get there, and how will we know when we get there.

The aim is to produce a planning document for the University with specific goals, responsibilities and timelines, said Vice President Peter Holbrook, the internal facilitator for the process. Sister Dorothy Monikowski, the external facilitator, stressed the importance of the process, saying, "We need to take the time to understand each other and come to a common understanding before any committee can go forward."

As representatives of the committees met with each other, some new ideas came forth, as well as common areas of awareness. For instance, Father Jim Lobacz, of the Franciscan culture committee, said there seems to be agreement that faculty, staff and administrators have a healthy awareness of institutional values. But that "head knowledge" needs to be transformed into "heart knowledge" — ways to encourage personal transformation, through contemplation, reflection and a real personalization of the Franciscan way, he said.

Several committee representatives noted that opportunities for Franciscan enrichment, professional development and moving the visioning process forward need to be made part of people's daily work lives. Unless individuals are given time off, or meetings are made mandatory, people are reluctant to avail themselves of these opportunities.

"If you build it, they won't come — because of overwork," Father Jim said. "These things need to become a professional expectation, not something extra or added on."

Many committees also stressed the need for shared decision-making and creating ways to praise and honor one another, to

boost morale and to deepen the sense of being appreciated and valued. The need for increased trust and respect was another theme that surfaced frequently.

If Stritch is to achieve its goals, several committee members said, the campus community needs to make use of the expertise of individuals, break down silos, and create effective mechanisms to assess progress. But, in the process, people must stay respectful of each other's jobs and practice respectfully disagreeing, it was noted.

"We need tools to help us resolve conflicts, or our assumptions about each other may get us in trouble" Steve Sellars said.

"We need to allow ourselves to say 'I feel uncomfortable with that,' so we can still build relationships that grow," said the Rev. Trinette McCray, of the relational committee.

"Before we can implement any plans, we need to change behaviors," Rachel Boechler, of the learning committee, stressed. And because the concept of a learning community is still hazy in some people's minds, she added, "We need to practice pieces along the way, recognize it when you see it, so people begin to know what it is."

In discussions involving student planning, it was suggested that more time needs to be built in during the regular school day — whether that is day or evening hours, on or off campus — to help students get to know each other and the University better and to make them feel that they really are a part of things.

The organizational systems subcommittee posited that Stritch went from a small college to a mid-sized university and that its systems have not kept up. "Our systems need to grow and change and reflect our goals," said Peter Jonas. "We need to constantly review and revise and update and change."

The committees are now charged with creating directional statements from which mechanisms to achieve goals will be formulated, Holbrook said. The process will continue to be shared with the broader University community.

"Everything that happens here is every person's business," Sister Dorothy said.

Mile of Art event comes to an end

After 27 years, the annual Mile of Art at Stritch will be ending. The event's two-year hiatus due to the construction of Bonaventure Hall proved to be the ideal time to bring the show to a close, said Claire Odishoo, Mile of Art director and administrative assistant in the art department. Odishoo coordinated the Mile of Art along with Maurice Grimes, the department's shop technician.



The Mile of Art brought in painters, photographers, weavers, jewelers, glassmakers, metal smiths, and other artists to the Stritch campus for a colorful outdoor display. Odishoo said many of the visiting artists were from the Midwest and liked the event because of its easygoing, fun-in-the-sun appeal. The event typically was held in the middle of August.

Much discussion surrounded the decision to end the show's run, Odishoo said, and ultimately, coordination of resources proved to be logistically difficult. The quantity and quality of competing arts and crafts shows

also played a role in dwindling attendance at the Mile of Art.

"Sadly, the time has come to bring this event to a close," Odishoo and Grimes wrote in a statement. "We would like to thank each and every one of the wonderful volunteers, as well as the faculty and staff members who freely gave of their time and energy to make each show a success. A special thank you (goes) to the Physical Plant, Security and Food Services departments, without whose help this event would not have been possible."

Sr. Thomasita Fessler, former chair of the art department, started the Mile of Art as a way to raise funds for the department. Over the years, volunteers played an important part in building the event from a small fundraiser into a true art fair, Odishoo said.

"Some people poo-hoo art fairs because the quality isn't always there," said Grimes, who oversaw many logistical concerns for the show, including coordinating display booth setup in front of Bonaventure Hall and general troubleshooting. "But



art fairs serve a purpose because they give the average person a chance to buy art and see what's out there and talk to artists. People get more involved."

In the years before the Center for Communication Studies/Fine Arts (now the Joan Steele Stein Center) was built, the Mile of Art was held on the campus' northern road. When food became part of the event, the show was moved to the east side of Bonaventure Hall, to keep it closer to the kitchen.

"We had a good run. It was fun," Grimes said.



The Troubadour supports the overall mission, goals, and objectives of Cardinal Stritch University, and is meant to serve as a communications tool for the campus community.

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