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The Troubadour, Issue 35 (July 7, 2005)

Cardinal Stritch University

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THE TROUBADOUR

July 7, 2005

Issue 35

University Visioning/Planning process moving forward

Stritch's visioning and planning committee will meet next Monday, July 11, to review the latest drafts of strategic plans being created by the five subcommittees involved in the process. The committees are: learning community, Franciscan culture, relational culture, student planning and organizational systems.

Our vision:

Cardinal Stritch University is a Franciscan learning community that acts courageously and with integrity to foster the transformation of lives.

These latest drafts incorporate suggestions that were presented at a May 17 meeting of the entire group at the Motherhouse.

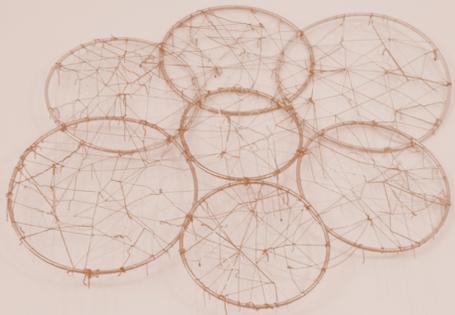
The next step in the process is feedback sessions, which will be scheduled in late summer and early September with select individuals who attended the Saturday, Nov. 20, 2004, visioning/planning session that was held on campus.

After that, a University assembly will be held in late September at which the plans will be shared with everyone and another opportunity to present feedback will be offered. The assembly also will highlight changes to date in the University environment that reflect the goals of the vision.

Executive Vice President Peter Holbrook, who is heading the effort, said all subcommittee plans should be finalized this fall, after which action steps will be implemented.

"As part of establishing Stritch as a true learning community, it's important that we share ideas and gather feedback widely," Holbrook said. "Living the vision through the plans that ultimately are finalized is everyone's responsibility, so we hope members of the campus community will remain engaged in this process."

"We pledge to communicate regularly with the Stritch community, and I encourage everyone to watch the Troubadour for updates."



The column below is the first in a series that will focus on the five subcommittees working on enacting the University's vision. Each will focus on the purpose behind the committee and some key action plans.



Franciscan Culture Committee

By Sr. Margaret Klotz, OSF, Ph.D.

The Franciscan Culture Committee of the visioning and planning effort seeks to deepen and expand people's understanding of the Franciscan heritage, to provide opportunities for personal growth and to ensure that Stritch truly integrates the heritage institutionally.

The committee also will work to ensure that workloads, schedules and the University's resources and decision-making processes are appropriate, so that people feel supported in their efforts to deepen their appreciation of the heritage.

These are important goals, and we believe they are essential to achieving the transformation articulated in the vision and to making sure that everything we do here at Stritch is done within the essence of Franciscan values, history and heritage.

This committee's charges grew out of statements gathered at the on-campus visioning meeting last Nov. 20. People expressed a deep desire for structures that can enhance relationships and deepen the Franciscan tradition. But to get there, reduced time is necessary.

Therefore, this committee's first strategic action is to recommend that everyone's job description include a minimum of 1%, or about 45 minutes every two weeks, dedicated to Franciscan enrichment. Since this time would be part of the job description, every employee would have to identify and attend an appropriate number of campus offerings.

Supervisors and department heads would have to determine how to ensure that individuals have the time

and work in an atmosphere that supports these self-enrichment opportunities. Any additional resource needs would then have to be reported to the Administration, so that service to students and other members of the campus community would not be impaired. The Administration would be responsible for providing the resources necessary to support the development of a Franciscan culture in the workplace.

The committee's second strategic action is to work with other campus offices to conduct a survey to find areas of interest and program formats to provide the desired personal and spiritual enrichment.

In the meantime, we recommend that the University continue with formats that already have proven to be successful and to offer them on a monthly basis, as "Some Food with Francis." These would include Soup with Substance, Brown Bag Lunches, suppers, Mystic Pizza, and Sundays with Sundaes. Events would include discussions of books and articles, other information as well as time for reflection and discussion.

When personal development is seen not as an "add-on" or an "unfunded mandate," but rather as an essential part of the University's Franciscan identity, and the offerings that are presented are rich, deep and varied, we will be well on the way to having the sort of culture that is the goal of the Franciscan Culture Committee.

Sister Margaret Klotz chairs the Franciscan Culture Committee. It also includes:

*Lisa Carlson
Thomas Kipp
Sister Mary Ann Polasek
Lance Richey*

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.

If you have feedback or story ideas, please contact Public Relations at prdept@stritch.edu.

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