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Cardinal Stritch University

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# THE TROUBADOUR

OCTOBER 19, 2006

ISSUE 64

## AUDIT REPORT GIVES STRITCH A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH

Stritch recently received an unblemished report from auditors the University hires yearly to make sure all business practices and internal controls are in order.

The University has never had a problem in at least the last 20 years, said Vice President Karen Walrath, who heads Business and Finance. And that's very rare, she said. Problems auditors typically uncover can run the gamut from not keeping a proper address for a student to not having enough money to pay the bills, she said.

Stritch undergoes the audits because the University receives federal money and has a loan out on the Bonaventure Hall expansion.

"Also, it gives the assurance that we are a well-run University and provides a sense of confidence to the campus community, our vendors and to our trustees. It shows that we're on the up and up," she said.

The audit process involves interviewing Stritch personnel in the Business Office and Human Resources on procedures and to learn about the controls the University has in place, then testing to be sure Stritch does what it says it does. Auditors pull random records, check receipts, invoices,

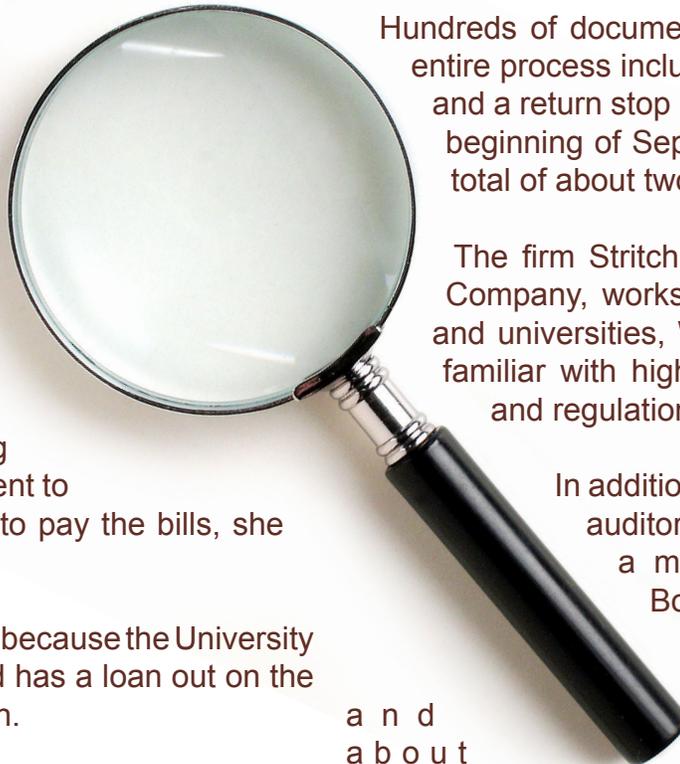
student loan files, etc., to ensure everything is in order. The lead liaison is Joyce Shiels, assistant vice president for Business and Finance.

Hundreds of documents are involved, and the entire process includes a visit in May or June and a return stop in the end of August or the beginning of September. Auditors spend a total of about two weeks at Stritch.

The firm Stritch hires, Virchow Krause & Company, works with about 100 colleges and universities, Walrath said, so it is very familiar with higher education procedures and regulations.

In addition to its report to Stritch the auditors prepare what is called a management letter for the Board of Trustees that states the scope of the audit, procedures performed and any potential concern any Stritch personnel involved in recordkeeping. In that report, which is presented to the Finance and Facilities Committee of Stritch's board, auditors also found no problems, weaknesses in accounting controls, and no errors or irregularities.

"It's a lot of work, and people here are extremely busy when it's going on," Walrath said. "But you feel good when it's over, everything turns out well, and you know that we're doing what we're supposed to be doing."



## FACULTY SENATE MOVES TO REPRESENTATIVE FORM OF GOVERNANCE

The Faculty Senate at Stritch has changed to a representative form of government. This means that instead of all 119 faculty members meeting once a month and voting as a group, the Senate will now comprise 24 members, who will represent and make decisions for the entire faculty.

The new Senate includes the seven elected Faculty Council members, 17 members of the University's Standing Committees, plus the academic vice president as an ex officio, non-voting member.

Pat Clemens, chair of Faculty Council, the executive committee of the Senate, said the idea was first brought up in May 2005. The Faculty Council then gathered input and, with the help of several faculty members, drafted a document that was shared with and revised several times by faculty before being approved Oct. 6 by a vote of 75-16, with one abstention.

The new form of governance includes two alternative procedures to ensure that all faculty are appropriately represented. Any matter of importance that is not adequately considered by the Senate can go to the full faculty for a referendum vote if a request is put in writing and includes the signatures of 20% of the Faculty-at-Large.

Also, the full faculty may request reconsideration of a Senate decision within two weeks of the decision

if 20% of the Faculty-at-Large request it. In this instance, the request would be reported to the full faculty, a period of time would be designated for more discussion, and the measure would then be brought back to the Faculty Senate for a second vote.

Under the new structure, the Faculty Senate will continue to meet once a month and the Faculty-at-Large will meet four times a year. All Senate meetings will be open, and all agendas will include an open forum.

Clemens said the new Senate ensures broad representation because it includes the Faculty Council, which is made up of one representative from each college, plus three at-large representatives who are elected by all the faculty.

Additionally, he said, the 17 Standing Committee members mean more representation.

A page will be created on MyStritch, he said, with minutes and reports of the Faculty Senate and Faculty Council.

"Faculty are heard three ways in the Senate, so we think we've covered everybody, plus communication should flow better," Clemens said.

The new governance structure has a sunset clause that calls for faculty evaluation three years from now.



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## THE TROUBADOUR

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