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Cardinal Stritch University

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THE TROUBADOUR

FEBRUARY 12, 2007

ISSUE 70

STRATEGIC, FINANCIAL PLAN APPROVED

Stitch's board of trustees recently approved the University's strategic and financial plan for 2007-2012. The aim is to advance the University's

mission, vision and Franciscan values by aligning financial planning with 11 strategic directions.

- Attaining financial vibrancy
- Building and sustaining quality human resources

"Because we are striving to become a learning community, broad input was gathered in the creation of this plan," said Executive Vice President Pete Holbrook. "It is based on research, contains specific benchmarks, and will be part of a continuous process that will allow us to work together to move successfully into the future."

The plan grew out of a series of white papers that were prepared on the state of the University. A Core-Coordinating Planning Team, consisting of 75 representatives of the various areas of the University met twice in fall of 2006 to guide the planning process.

At the first meeting, the group developed the strategies and action steps, and at the second, refined, prioritized and adopted them.

Now that the trustees have approved the plan, all areas of the University are expected to base their discussions and goal setting around them, rather than simply planning based on current resources. The strategic objectives will shape multi-year planning and be the basis for future budgeting.

"A formal monitoring system is being developed to ensure that the target timelines are being followed and to allow us to report back to the Stritch community and our trustees on our most important priorities," Holbrook said.

For a complete copy of the strategic and financial plan, log on to My Stritch and look under the Employee Info tab at the Visioning and Planning section. A series of PDF files are located there that include the pre-planning survey results and a five-part document that outlines each of the 11 strategic directions.



The plan grew out of the creation of the University's vision statement, which in turn resulted in the formation of five strategic areas and committees. The work of those committees is advanced by and continues within the plan.

The 11 broad directions contain action steps, benchmarks, target dates for completion and assigned responsibilities. The directions are:

- Enhancing Franciscan Catholic identity and heritage
- Becoming a Franciscan learning community
- Achieving academic excellence
- Increasing student engagement, community and service
- Continuously improving facilities and grounds
- Using information technology to advance teaching, learning, administration and service
- Increasing philanthropic support and fundraising capacity
- Increasing and diversifying enrollment
- Building more community awareness, visibility and recognition