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The Troubadour, Issue 88 (November 5, 2008)

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THE TROUBADOUR

NOVEMBER 5, 2008

ISSUE 88

UPDATE ON COUSINS CENTER, LEADERSHIP RESTRUCTURING



Dear friends and colleagues,

I am pleased to inform you that Stritch formally submitted our request for rezoning of the Cousins Center and WE Energies properties to the city of St. Francis Oct. 30. As you may know, a rezoning of the property to “planned unit development” must take place before any purchase is finalized. The research and documentation required to prepare this request was quite extensive, and we are optimistic that we will receive approval early next year. Last week, I shared with you that the Board of Trustees has approved the purchase of the Cousins Center property, with just the need to have the financing plan in place before we close. So as you can see, we are well on our way to the beginning of an historic and exciting new chapter for the University!

This new chapter is the first of many that will lead to the growth that will propel us forward. During this time, the revamping of our leadership structure is necessary to tackle the challenges we face in aligning our goals with reality. The first step in this process was the creation of the executive vice president for administration/chief financial officer position, which will greatly enhance our organizational efficiency.

The second step, which aids our communication efforts and honors the spirit of our Franciscan learning community, is the creation of an e-mail account, questions@stritch.edu, that will serve as both a means for faculty and staff to get straight answers to tough questions related to the restructuring process, and as a forum for questions on overall organizational change as we move forward.

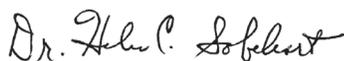
My hope is that those with questions or concerns will avail themselves of this resource rather than engage in needless speculation about what may lie ahead for this great institution and all who serve it with such grace. Every attempt will be made to respond to questions sent to this address as quickly and directly as time allows, and with as much information as we are able to share. If I can't answer your question directly, I will be sure to find someone who can.

This is but one way for us to communicate more efficiently. If you want to ask a question or share a concern but wish to remain anonymous, please feel free to drop me a note in interoffice mail. It remains of the utmost importance to me that all of you feel as though your voices are heard and valued.

I would like to remind everyone that Joanne Williams, vice president for public relations and marketing, begins an exciting new phase of her long and respected career on Monday, Nov. 10, here at Stritch. I encourage you to welcome her with the Franciscan hospitality I have come to know as a true hallmark of our community.

I continue to be amazed and appreciative of your willingness to open your hearts and lift up your voices as we join together to meet the challenges inherent in transforming lives. I look forward to having some fun and sharing my many thanks for your efforts at the upcoming Harvest Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 22.

Blessings,



Dr. Helen C. Sobehart
President