

UNIVERSITY SELF STUDY STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes April 24, 2007

Present: Ms. Robyn Dickinson, Dr. Richard Klonoski, Ms. Constance McDonnell, Dr. John McInerney, Dr. Linda Ledford-Miller, Dr. Elizabeth Randol, Dr. David Rusak, Dr. Edward Scahill, Mr. Edward Steinmetz (Co-Chair), Ms. Bonnie Strohl, Ms. Valerie Taylor and Dr. Janice Voltzow (Co-Chair)

Guest: Father Scott Pilarz

Substitutes: Ms. Mary Elizabeth Moylan (for Dr. Dona Carpenter)

Recorder: Ms. Linda Scherer

1.0 Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 10, 2007 meeting were approved as printed.

2.0 Review and Discussion with Fr. Pilarz on Meeting our Goals for Ignatian Education

Fr. Pilarz first expressed his gratitude and appreciation to members for all of the hard work being accomplished by the committee. Dr. Voltzow's first question to Fr. Pilarz was whether the committee was on the right track with the standards for addressing Ignatian goals. Fr. Pilarz felt that absolutely the committee was on the right track. He did caution that members need to be aware that we all have a tendency to reduce Ignatian Education to "service"—tradition is much more than service. Although St. Ignatius Loyola did speak about citizenship, we cannot ignore the intellectual element or have a disconnect between service and intellect. Fr. Pilarz also reminded members that we all need to be cognizant of the service of faith.

In the summary provided for Standard 1, the second paragraph needs to identify areas at the leadership level. Under the summary for Standard 2 in the last paragraph, Fr. Pilarz asked who would do the asking of our students concerning the depth of their understanding of our Jesuit Mission and their commitment to it. Dr. McInerney replied that he would be looking into the pre- and post-testing of students. For example, freshmen could be tested in exams given at the conclusion of their participation in a revamped Freshman Experience Program and then again in capstone courses near the ends of their undergraduate careers.

Fr. Pilarz felt the first sentence in the summary for Standard 3, "The University's commitment and care for institutional resources grows from its desire to provide the people, facilities, and technology that make Ignatian education possible" was good language for all to look at and an important point for all to remember—to come back to our core purpose. Fr. Pilarz and Ms. Dickinson will follow-up to

discuss incorporating Ignatian discernment into our institutional planning. Fr. George Aschenbrenner is a local expert on Ignatian discernment.

Service learning programs are mentioned under Standard 6 and Fr. Pilarz suggested that the promotion of justice also be addressed. And he raised the question, how do we more deliberately connect mission-based engagement when there is communication lacking among departments where the mission-driven work occurs?

In the summary for Standard 11, a wording change was suggested. Rather than using “the grievous decline,” it was suggested that “the significant decline” might be more suitable. Fr. Pilarz would also like to see more references to the International Service Programs.

In the summary for Standard 13, the first weakness listed speaks about student selection and formalizing this process. Fr. Pilarz noted that we are entering a whole new world of admissions and we need to be a little more deliberate about how we are accepting students and definitely need a more formal process.

The second question posed by Dr. Voltzow was how would we like to see our Goals for Ignatian Education integrated into the administration of the University?

Using the accounting department as an example, Fr. Pilarz gave suggestions such as being sure to apply the highest standards of integrity in this area; to respect individuality and to model this. He emphasized that “care of the whole person” should be further expanded to mean “care of the whole person in his or her uniqueness.” All administrative areas need to look at how each of us are treating the individuals of the University. One committee member expressed that most of the new employees have a strong sense of cura personalis.

Lastly, Dr. Voltzow asked Fr. Pilarz how we assure that distance learning and special programs at other sites are integrated into our goals for Ignatian Education? How do we convey our mission and our sense of community to those students off campus? Fr. Pilarz stated he also was seeking answers on this question; in particular, with programs such as BISK. Ensuring quality of these programs is crucial to the University’s Mission and Ignatian goals. Ms. Dickinson relayed how various departments have program accreditors which emphasize quality of education; however, they may only touch on the specific aspects of our mission.

Some suggestions to assist with this area were to mail or provide online support to these students, ensure timely faculty responses to emails or other forms of communication from the students, and possibly University faculty doing “onsite” education for students (such as at a hospital or other facility) where the mission can be brought to the students.

The Library just scored very high on the recent Lib Qual+ assessment for treating the person/student and his/her request for information seriously. Doing so tells the student that we care about him/her and their needs.

Fr. Pilarz expressed his appreciation that members of the trustees talk about who owns this mission and are deeply engaged in this area of the University.

Another member spoke of the positive aspects of online courses and how the University is serving adult students with full time jobs who would otherwise be unable to further their education. He emphasized that as long as the programs are designed well and assessed regularly, the University is attracting students who might have to go somewhere else if we did not offer the courses here.

Teaching leadership through these courses where men and women can then become leaders for others was suggested by another faculty member.

Discussion ensued concerning how much part-time faculty know about our mission in light of the statistics that they make up approximately 30% of our faculty. Although dinners and/or events occur for the part-time faculty, many of them work at other employers and are unable to attend.

Father Pilarz offered his services to the committee whenever they may need them. Dr. Voltzow mentioned that the next item she will ask him to look at will be the draft, especially in the areas of Ignatian Education.

3.0 Updates

There were no official updates.

4.0 Homework

4.1 All Chairs

Dr. Voltzow requested that all Working Group Chairs prioritize their recommendations for discussion on May 8th.

4.2 Final Drafts

All final drafts of working group reports are due May 8th.

5.0 Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m. **The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. in the Estate Planning Conference Room 302.**

cc: H. Baillie
J. DeSanto