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Summer Retreat

Sister Jane and Dr. de la Motte would like to meet with a group of 10-12 persons (in addition to them), to include the academic deans and roughly 8-10 faculty members from across the disciplines. Dr. de la Motte would like to do this in the “off-contract” period of July and August, meeting as a group for three days and two nights, somewhere off campus. Significant readings and a detailed agenda would be sent to participants well in advance. Faculty members would be modestly compensated for their preparation and for three days’ work.

The reasons for this meeting are at least three-fold: 1) faculty have long maintained that the institution does not have a coherent, unified academic vision and plan; 2) Sister Jane, Michael Semenza, and a number of trustees have begun to develop ideas for a more academically-orientated fundraising campaign (for scholarships, faculty development funds, programming, and endowed chairs, for example), and her group has also pointed out the need for an academic plan to establish priorities and drive fundraising in this area; and 3) it is essential that we begin to discuss how such a plan, which must grow from the mission and the needs of today’s students, but also complement the overall strategic plan, should inform our core curriculum in the future. All of these pieces fit together and should be discussed as parts of a larger whole.

The goals of such a meeting then would be two-fold:

- 1) the group would create a draft academic vision and the outlines of strategic academic initiatives (i.e., priorities), both of which then would be discussed by the faculty as a whole, and
- 2) in that context, create a set of parameters for the creation of a new core curriculum.

These parameters would then be used by the deans and the faculty to move forward with a review and (very likely) a revision of the core curriculum. By that time we will also have the program review of the core and the NEASC visiting team’s report to inform our discussions.

Dr. de la Motte has asked the Executive Committee to appoint 5 members to this committee. We are looking for faculty volunteers for this committee who feel passionately about enhancing and focusing the academic vision and planning of Salve Regina, and making sure that the core curriculum proceeds directly from that vision. From the faculty who volunteer to serve on this committee, the Executive Committee will use two (2) criteria to choose 5 appointees:

- 1) representation across disciplines, and
- 2) variety in rank and tenure status of appointees.

Any names not chosen for appointment will be forwarded to Dr. de la Motte for his consideration. Once the Executive Committee has made the faculty appointments, we will send a note to faculty so they can send any questions or concerns related to the summer retreat to the 5 appointed faculty members.

If you wish to volunteer to serve on the summer retreat committee, please send an email to Will Stout (stout@salve.edu) or James Mitchell (james.mitchell@salve.edu) by noon on Friday, 15 April 2011.