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**Minutes of the Faculty Assembly Meeting
Salve Regina University
February 6, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 2:34.

The minutes of the Faculty Assembly Meeting of December 2, 2009 were accepted without revision.

1. Reports.
 - a. Social Committee. Craig Condella reported that there will be a winter social in Ochre Court following the next meeting of the Faculty Assembly.
2. New Business
 - a. Sister Jane Gerety, RSM offered an informal report to the faculty on the state of the university.
 1. Budget. Our budget was built on an average undergraduate enrollment of 1840 (1845 is being projected for this academic year). Sister Jane feels that we're doing "okay" and thanked the faculty for the year's sacrifices. However, there are indications that 2010 may be even more difficult. There will be some changes in policies for aid next year, in anticipation of further economic hardships faced by our students and their families:
 - a. An econometrician has been hired as a consultant to reconsider the amount of merit scholarships (which have not increased since 1995). Need-based aid has increased to a level that we cannot sustain, so we need to increase enrollment. We also need to study what kind of student is attracted to Salve, as well as what type of student we want. We are aiming for a larger class with higher SAT scores. Applications are down, which may indicate that students are applying to fewer schools. Sister Jane thanked the faculty for the previous day's Accepted Student Day. This is an example of a high-yield activity, and we need to develop further retention tools
 - b. We are at the beginning of a five-year Strategic Plan. It is time to consider certain key performance indicators. For example, we currently have a four-year graduation rate of 65%. We should aim to increase it to 70%. We aim to increase retention from 76.4% to 85%. Other factors to be examined are: the Student: Faculty ratio, the number of tenured or tenure-track faculty as compared to the number of adjuncts, increasing the number of minority faculty, ways of measuring student achievement, study abroad, how many students complete internships, are employed in their field upon graduating, or are

accepted for graduate study and post-baccalaureate research positions.

- c. Sister Jane has met with the Rhode Island delegation in Washington, D.C to inquire as to the possibility of funding for renovating O'Hare; she has also done alumni/recruiting events.

We have secured \$500,000 in appropriations from the Department of Education for the connection of our Pawtucket site with this campus. She has also confirmed Malaak Compton-Rock as our next commencement speaker; Ms. Compton-Rock is recognized for her exceptional service record worldwide.

- d. Student Center. Sister Jane is seeking feedback from students about locating the student center in O'Hare in the future, but for the moment, we are focusing on updating Wakehurst. The first floor has been recently renovated, and Sister Jane encourages the faculty to visit. The goal is to increase space for the clubs.
- e. Academic life. Sister Jane will meet with each department chair and possibly attend a department meeting to discuss issues. She will also meet with the Graduate directors.
- f. Compensation proposal. Sister Jane is considering FACSBS's proposal regarding contributions to retirement very carefully. She will respond as soon as possible.
- g. Options for use of the Ochre Court chapel and the ballroom are being discussed.

b. Dr. Dean de la Motte

- 1. Shortly, freshmen and senior students will be asked to participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement. This survey was developed in response to U.S. News and World Report's rankings as a means of measuring student engagement and success. It was administered at Salve in 2005 and in either 2007 or 2008, after some modification. Freshmen and senior students will receive an email inviting them to participate about February 15, followed by two reminders, and a final reminder on April 6. The survey measures how engaged students feel with their major, the time that they feel faculty dedicate to them, their engagement with faculty, how challenged they feel (with regard to curriculum and beyond)-basically, their take on the academic climate. Results will come in over the summer; Dr. de la Motte will give us an overview in Fall of 2001 and let us see how it compares to previous years' surveys. There are various comparison categories, including how we compare to similar schools, to all schools participating in NaSSE, and the Carnegie schools (typically, we

have done better among the seniors surveyed than the freshmen).

2. Dr. de la Motte answered questions by faculty about the survey. Results are aggregate, not by department. He will check to see if there is data available for Salve prior to 2005. The response rate last time was low (28%), and he would like faculty to encourage students' participation. This time, there will be a "reward" for their participation.
- c. Jim Chace reported from FACSB. FACSB is awaiting Sister Jane's response to our proposal; the list of comparison schools will be discussed at the next Faculty Assembly Meeting.
- d. Treasurer's report. We currently have \$2,053.65 in the account (a little under 70% of faculty have paid their dues; our goal was to have 80% paid by Christmas). Faculty may still pay dues.
- e. Will Stout reported that the ad hoc committee on rigor will meet on Monday; they have had no other meetings prior to this date. He will report back to the faculty at one of the March meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.