Report of the President and Executive Committee (EC)

I. Presentations on SLU Investments & Endowments and SLU Budget
All faculty have been invited to these annual presentations by VP-Business & Finance/CFO Bob Woodruff and Treasurer and Chief Investment Officer Gary Whitworth. Provost Joe Weixlmann is expected to attend. B. Woodruff has been asked to respond to the following questions, raised at the December 2008 Senate meeting:
1. How is the current investment allocation model different from past years’ when the endowment didn’t do as well?
2. Many endowment funds are in fixed endowments. Can all be drawn down equally at the 4.5% spend rate or are different funds drawn on at different rates?
3. What’s been the impact of the big financial firm problems on SLU’s endowment?
4. How do we compare with other Jesuit universities as far as percentage of tuition covering expenses (i.e., how does SLU’s level of tuition dependence compare?)?
5. When a gift is made to SLU, what percentage goes toward the endowment? (i.e., How much is taken out for “overhead”? Does it vary depending on the target of the gift?)

II. Q & A about University Fundraising
VP-Advancement and University Relations Tom Keefe is unable to attend the January 27th Senate meeting but is tentatively scheduled to appear at the February 24th meeting. At that time, he will provide his unit’s perspective on the endowment and donations, speak to donation solicitation procedures, and respond to fundraising-related questions posed by senators at the December 2008 Senate meeting.

III. Position of Vice President for Health Sciences
In a special message emailed on January 13th to all SLU faculty and staff, Fr. Biondi announced that Philip Alderson, M.D., Dean of the School of Medicine, is taking on additional duties at the Medical Center and has been appointed Vice President for Health Sciences. Fr. Biondi’s message explained the rationale for this administrative change, the consultation process involved in considering the change, and how the new organization would be implemented. An attached Q&A sheet delved further into these topics and, in so doing, addressed practical matters anticipated to be of concern to faculty, particularly those affiliated with the Doisy College of Health Sciences, School of Nursing, and School of Public Health.

At the open forum held on January 15th, EC members M. Joseph, J. Langan, and J. Turner spoke briefly to various aspects of this administrative change. Perhaps most importantly, EC input was proactively sought. The EC supported this change following extensive consultation and discussion with the Provost, Fr. Biondi, the Executive Staff (VPs), and Dr. Alderson. Further, Dr. Alderson and other members of the administration are receptive to continued dialogue and feedback as the changes play out.
IV. Faculty Senate Executive Committee Nominations
Elections for new EC members will take place at the final Spring ’09 Senate meeting. The open positions are those of secretary (currently Jane Turner) and two members-at-large (currently Judy Durham and Mark Ferris). All are two-year terms; those of the members-at-large are renewable. In accordance with Senate Bylaws, the current EC, serving as the Nominating Committee, will make its report of nominees at the February Senate meeting. Additional nominations for EC consideration may be submitted from the floor at that time. Please see Faculty Senate Bylaws IV.1. and VI.8. for eligibility criteria. In mid-March, senators will receive brief biographical statements of each nominee on the final slate. A formal election for the open EC positions will be held at the April 28th meeting. At that meeting, Joanne Langan will become Senate president. As past-president, Miriam Joseph remains on the EC for one more year. Current EC members Mark Knuepfer and Alan Weinberger have another year remaining on their member-at-large terms.

V. Faculty Manual Amendments
Given the current year’s extraordinary focus on the University budget, the EC and Provost have concurred that consideration of potential amendments be tabled until 2009-2010.

VI. Shared Governance Action Plan
The Core Planning Team is in the process of updating the plan with “status” notes to document the progress made thus far.

VII. Future Spring 2009 Faculty Senate Meetings
A. February 24th – Tom Keefe, VP-Advancement and University Relations + Tim Brooks, VP-Information Technology Services + EC Nominations
B. March 24th – Boyd Bradshaw, Vice Provost-Enrollment Management
C. April 28th – Philip Alderson, Dean-School of Medicine and VP-Health Sciences + Joe Weixlmann, Provost + EC Elections
In addition, we anticipate that each meeting will include a brief report from a Board of Trustees Committee faculty representative.

VIII. Faculty Participation Needed for Freshman Scholarship Interview Weekends
Interviews for full-tuition Presidential Scholarships are scheduled for February 21st and February 28th. Interviews for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarship, valued at $13,000, are scheduled for March 21st. All three dates are Saturdays. These are great opportunities to meet some very accomplished young people, while providing much needed and appreciated support for the University’s freshman recruitment efforts. For more information, see this Newslink story at http://www.slu.edu/x27682.xml.

IX. Roster of Senators
Senators’ photos received to date have been added to the roster. REQUEST to senators: Please send current photo to M. Joseph (josephme@slu.edu) for inclusion.

X. Emergency Notification Registration
Please continue to remind your faculty and staff colleagues to register their personal contact information. Annual verification is necessary to ensure the accuracy of the information needed for this purpose. Login through Banner Self-Service at https://fsselfserv.slu.edu/fssctprod_prod1/twbkwbis.P_WWWLogin.