TO: Saint Louis University Community

FROM: Board of Trustees

DATE: September 30, 2013

RE: Presidential Search

With this communication, the Board of Trustees wishes to share with the SLU community an update on the presidential search, and ask for your help in supporting the effort to select the next president of Saint Louis University.

First, a presidential search committee has been selected, and it will be chaired by longtime Trustee Jim Smith. The other members of the search committee are:

- James Burshek, S.J. – Trustee
- Anne Gagen – Trustee
- Dr. Jeffrey Gfeller – Professor and Chairman, Psychology Department, College of Arts and Sciences
- John Griesbach – Professor, School of Law
- Al Litteken – Trustee
- Dr. Teri Murray – Dean, School of Nursing
- Dr. Frank O’Donnell – Trustee
- Vidur Sharma – President, Student Government Association
- Patrick Sly – Vice Chairman and Trustee
- Dr. Jane Turner – President, Faculty Senate

Over the course of the summer, representatives of the Board and the administration researched best practices for presidential searches and found, universally, that search committees comprised of 8 to 10 members are most effective. The makeup of the search committee was selected thoughtfully and to ensure representation of the University community.

The Board also decided to engage a search consultant with extensive experience in presidential searches to help guide the work of the Committee in identifying the best possible candidates for the position. After interviewing several firms, the Board approved the hiring of AGB Search as our search consultant. AGB Search has an extensive history of successful presidential searches, and the head of the firm, Dr. James Ferrare, will personally oversee AGB’s work with the search
committee. Dr. Ferrare will be meeting with members of the University community beginning this week. You can find further information about AGB on their website. (www.agbsearch.com)

During the next 30 days or so, the search committee will be working with Dr. Ferrare in creating a position description and profile of the next president. This will include outlining the type of person we want as president, the skills that the person should have and any other characteristics we as a community think are important. Before we can finalize this position description, significant input will be sought from across the University.

Dr. Ferrare will be conducting many open sessions on campus with a variety of University groups, and with the entire SLU community in two open fora. In these meetings, participants will have the opportunity to comment, question and dialogue about the qualities we want in our next president. **On October 1 and 2**, Dr. Ferrare will meet with key constituent groups, including the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate; the Staff Advisory Committee Executive Board; the Student Government Association; the Deans; the Executive Staff; and the Jesuits who minister at SLU.

**On October 14**, there will be two open fora — one in the morning and one in the afternoon — where everyone is welcome to attend and participate. The times and locations for these sessions will be communicated via SLU Newslink in the days ahead.

Following the completion and approval of the position description, the search committee, with the help of AGB Search, will begin the process of identifying candidates. While this will need to be a very thorough and detailed process, it remains the hope of the Board that SLU’s next president can be selected in the spring of 2014 and can take office near the beginning of the 2015 fiscal year in July.

It is the Board’s intent that the search process be open and available to those in the University community. In the days and weeks ahead, we will be posting important information about the search on pages on the SLU website. Information about those pages will be communicated via SLU Newslink.

The work of the search committee is extraordinarily important, and the Board thanks all of those who have agreed to serve — especially Committee Chairman Jim Smith, who has already put extensive time and energy into this effort. Shortly, you will receive additional information about the search process from Jim Smith. As we move forward, all communications about the search will come from Jim; and you can send comments or questions to Jim directly at trusteejsmith@slu.edu.

The Board of Trustees is confident that we will identify and hire another great president for Saint Louis University, and very much appreciates your help and support in this process.