SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES

February 23, 1999

VISITORS: E. Carnaghan, J. Kimmey, G. Hallett, S.J.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:41 p.m.

INVITED SPEAKER: James Kimmey, University Executive Vice President

An outline of the administration's plan for Saint Louis University called "The NEXT LEVEL Project", with the ultimate goal of becoming the finest Catholic university in the United States was presented. It includes plans for improving the physical infrastructure that supports academic programs along with improving the overall quality of academics. The plan will be presented to the Finance Sub-Committee of the Board of Trustees on Saturday February 27 with final presentation to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees in May.

Proposed improvements in the infrastructure include major repairs and renovations in both residence halls and classroom buildings.

Proposed improvements in overall academic quality include the following:

Enhance the University's reputation by the development of selected Centers of Excellence.

Enhance the University's research activities. Plans include a proposed pool of $750, 000/year that would be provided for seed money for academic research. The attainment of a Carnegie Research I status for the University is a desired goal.

Support a superior faculty by increasing average faculty salaries for each rank to the 60th percentile for Carnegie Research II Universities.

Provide support to recruit superior graduate and professional students.

Provide support to recruit superior undergraduate students.

Additional funding for infrastructure improvements could be provided by debt financing (bonds).

Additional funding of academic improvements could come from a five year program in which the spending formula for interest produced by the endowment is increased by 2% (ca. $7 million/year) which would be committed to academics.
FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE [Jack Stretch (Social Service), Co-chair]
   The primary task of the committee is the 5 year review and revision of the faculty manual. The first phase included getting suggestions for changes from all levels of administration and faculty. The second phase will now involve putting all this together in a form that will be shared with the committee and the committee will now take this back to their respective schools and colleges for "comments on the comments". It is hoped that this phase will be completed by the end of this spring semester so that in the summer proposed revisions can be drafted.

   Other work of the committee involves the work of three subcommittees. One subcommittee is dealing with issues concerned with the School of Professional Studies. A second subcommittee is dealing with quirks and inconsistencies in some of the grievance procedures. A third subcommittee is concerned with issues unique to the School of Medicine. A report was distributed to those in attendance.

2. FACULTY AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE [Roger Lewis (Public Health) for Committee Chair Soraya Nouri (Pediatrics)]
   One area in which the committee has been working involved the problem with inconsistencies in evaluation of faculty and ways to improve the mechanisms for doing this. The second area has been concerned with student-faculty relationships. It is felt that the University should be moving ahead on emphasizing the role of mentoring and advising among faculty. Copies of two letters from Committee Chair Soraya Nouri to President Amine were distributed. These letters described activities of the committee.

3. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS [Ellen Carnaghan (Arts and Sciences) Chair]
   One area in which the committee worked involved impaneling the Burlington Northern Committee. In the future, the A.A. committee will be working on reports to come from the First Year Experience Hearings Committee. Reports on non-core academic issues and on student life are expected. Sandra Johnson (University Provost) has requested that the Academic Affairs Committee read these reports and discuss them in committee and then with her in order that proposals acceptable to the faculty may eventually be developed. Additional issues being considered involve Academic Honesty and Distance Learning. A copy of the report was distributed.

REPORT FROM THE FIRST YEAR HEARINGS COMMITTEE [Father G. Hallett, SJ (Dean, Philosophy and Letters) standing in for Dr. Jean-Robert Leguey-Feilluex, Chair]
   The committee conducted hearings and obtained input from all areas (students, faculty, administration etc.). After ending the hearings, the committee identified some areas where they thought they could reach ready agreement. They arrived at a plan of not putting out one big collection of recommendations but rather putting out a few recommendations at a time and waiting to see how others reacted to them. Five recommendations have been recently submitted to Sandra Johnson and she and Father Stauder (Associate Provost) were given a long distribution list
of people to whom they should be circulated. The committee recently discussed additional topics which include First Year Seminars, Classrooms without Walls and issues related to advising. Recommendations on those matters were developed. They have now begun discussions on student life and will move on to governance and communication issues. Following that, issues related to a possible University Core Curriculum will be discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.