Dear Colleagues,

It has been quite a year! My first year as Faculty Senate President has been enlightening, challenging, and mixed with joy and sadness. The joy emanates from the faculty, administrators, staff, and students who work so tirelessly to make SLU one of the finest Catholic universities in the country. We share the joy of those who receive the recognition they deserve through public awards, while acknowledging the contributions of so many “behind the scenes” who allow our stars to shine.

We have been saddened by the loss of members of our SLU community through natural attrition, or illness and death. On a personal level, I know many of us are also dealing with the illness of those who are near and dear to us.

We also have experienced some communication challenges this year, especially related to the tenets clearly defined in our Faculty Manual. The good news is that faculty members have been asked to serve on various committees and task forces and in so many other endeavors. Please continue to take advantage of these SHARED GOVERNANCE opportunities by agreeing to serve when invited, and to give feedback on documents and strategies when presented for review. Do not leave the work to the faithful few, but choose to be involved as positive contributors.

Please note that the Faculty Senate has arranged a Called Meeting, Tuesday, May 4, at the BSC (St. Louis Room) from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. First on the agenda, Dr. Manoj Patankar, Interim Vice President, Frost Campus, will share the names of those who comprise the “think tank” work group and will create a strategy for the Strategic Planning Process most likely in the early fall of the 2010-2011 academic year.

Secondly, Jennifer Scheessele, Director, Diversity & Affirmative Action, will lead the dialogue concerning the bias and hateful incidents that have unfortunately occurred on our campus. She will be joined by the leadership of both the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Staff Advisory Council (SAC). All faculty and administrators are invited to attend to hear examples of conduct that is hurtful to others and strategies to improve awareness and more appropriate behavior and communication.

We are also seeking nominations for the John A. Slosar Shared Governance Award, which honors and recognizes a faculty member who has provided outstanding contributions to the advancement of shared governance at Saint Louis University. Additional information, including important eligibility and award criteria, are posted on the Faculty Senate website: http://www.slu.edu/organizations/fs/slosar_award/index.html

As part of our faculty duty as University citizens, we remind you that all faculty are expected to attend SLU Commencement (May 15) and the SLU Convocation and Family Welcome (August 20).

If you would like more information on the Faculty Senate in general, please see our website at http://www.slu.edu/organizations/fs/.

A special thanks to this year’s members of the FS EC (especially Miriam Joseph/Past President and Alan Weinberger/Member-at-Large) as well as countless administrators, faculty, and staff who have supported me. More joy exists than sadness here at SLU, knowing that most of us are ready and willing to continue to move forward to becoming the finest Catholic university in the country.
Respectfully submitted,

Joanne C. Langan, PhD, RN
Faculty Senate President 2009-2011
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