

Staff

Advisory

Committee

Yearly

Report

for

1998

Staff Advisory Committee
1998

Life is not easy for any of us. We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained.

Marie S. Curie
1867-1934

The Staff Advisory Committee Chair position had a great deal of turnover this year with Chair Debbie Farmer toward year's end promoting SAC in meetings with the Council of Academic Deans and Directors. The first SAC General Meeting on the Health Sciences Center campus took place in September at the School of Nursing. Myrtle Davis was appointed to the position of SAC Archivist/Historian in October. Guests at SAC meetings this year included Fr. Michael Garanzini S.J., Jack Titone and Julie Saker. Kathy Hagedorn gave presentations in January on "Toward the Future" on the Frost campus and the HSC campus. Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy students did a study on the accessibility of each building on Frost campus. The Family Issues committee mailed a survey to all SLU employees. Susan Torretta in September became the SAC rep to the Parking Committee. SAC members took time out to enjoy two delicious lunches-in June at the Faculty/Staff Dining Club and in December in the Pere de Smet room at Busch Memorial Center.

There was a great deal of turnover this year at the SAC Chair position. Lynn Chase began the year as the Chair, resigning from SLU effective March 1 to take the position of Manager of Compensation and Benefits with Tenet. Linda Mahn became Chair with Betty Andrews to continue for 1998-1999 as the SAC rep on the Human Resources Committee of the Board of Trustees as Past Chair. In May, upper level administrative reorganization resulted in the appointment of Dr. James Kimmey as the Executive Vice President and Dr. Sandra Johnson as the Provost. As the reorganization affected the Academic Vice President's Office, Linda Mahn made the decision in July to resign as SAC Chair in order to actively participate in the changes for the Office. Debbie Farmer, elected Chair Elect in April, became the Chair and presided in August over her first regular monthly meeting. Sandra Voss in April had been elected Secretary. In a special election, Joyce Huelsmann in August became Chair Elect.

The Executive Board announced in August a meeting had taken place with Provost Johnson. Impressed with SAC's Mission Statement, Dr. Johnson wrote a letter in November to Chair Debbie Farmer stating she will encourage the members of the Council of Academic Deans and Directors to support SAC. The standing committees of SAC are Executive Board, SLU Stars, Communication and Charter/Protocol. After the announcement in September a stricter adherence to membership rules would be put into effect, the Chair in November sent letters to members absent for three consecutive meetings. The policy of subcommittee chairs giving monthly reports was reinstated, also in September.

From 1992 to 1998, staff members at Saint Louis University worked hard to create and then to nurture the group known as the Staff Advisory Committee. A lot of hard work turned into many accomplishments that improved the lives of both staff and faculty members. Sadly, there was no written record of the accomplishments or a person designated to write the history of SAC. Until this year!!! It was at the October General Meeting that Chair Debbie Farmer asked Myrtle Davis if she would take on the duties of Archivist/ Historian for the Staff Advisory Committee. The position will be annually appointed by the Chair and /or Executive Board but given the nature of the position, there would probably be no limit on the number of terms served. A meeting on October 7 with Myrtle and the University Archivist John Waide helped to set up a plan of action for writing the history of the group. Yearly Reports will be written first, with that information then organized by topics. Data and documents for the year 1992 were read, sorted by topic, organized by paragraph and then arranged into a logical and coherent report. Finding the work to be actually fun, Myrtle Davis reported at the December General meeting that the year end report for 1992 was completed.

In January, Chair Gerri Lashley of the Family Issues Committee reported that a proposed survey from the committee will be an informational outlet of Human Resources policies, seeking to identify areas of concern and to determine the extent of knowledge about benefits. By September, with Sandy Pritt as committee co-chair with Dr. Denise Chachere of the Business School, the survey had been reviewed by Kathy Hagedorn and was ready for mailing to all University staff. Following a section on demographic data, the areas covered include family and medical leave, dependent medical insurance, dental insurance, flexible scheduling, child care and funding priority. By December, nearly 1,300 of the 3,800 surveys mailed had been returned.

Susan Torretta in September became the SAC rep to the Parking Committee, meeting with the 6 person committee for the first time on November 5. Early in the year the parking lots between Grand and Channing St. closed so demolition could begin for the creation of green space, with additional bus service on the Billiken Bus Line for a two week period. The new Billiken Bus Line and Parks Flight Line schedules were distributed. The Billiken Bus Line includes Frost Loop and Frost / HSC Line.

In January, Kathy Hagedorn reported an Accessibility and Academic Accommodations Committee was being formed. Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy students began a study of the accessibility of each building in March and finished up in April with Mike G'Sell from Facilities Services taking notes. The study included width of doors, heights of sinks and water fountains, temperature of the water and observations on ramps and walkways. As a result of the committee's work, Kelley Auditorium was made accessible to the handicapped and electric doors were installed in DuBourg and Xavier Halls.

News continued to be made from the sale of SLU Hospital to Tenet Healthcare Corp.. In January, Kathy Hagedorn gave 2 presentations on the topic "Toward the Future" – addressing the Hospital sale, the impact of technology on jobs and how Human Resources is working to achieve the Strategic Plan. Also in January, SAC

members received a copy of Chair Lynn Chase's statement of support for the Hospital Sale given at the December 1997 Public hearing. With the transfer of the hospital to Tenet set for March 1, Rob Altholz Vice President for Business and Finance gave a presentation on the ways finances were impacted by the sale of the hospital.

800 persons are on staff with UMG/SLU Care, one third of the full time staff population at Saint Louis University. They receive 9 paid holidays per year, the rest of the University 13. The HR Board in May formed a one month taskforce after the heads of UMG/SLU Care asked Human Resources to look into the disparity. The PCC in August approved the taskforce's recommendation to give all University employees 13 holidays per year, after unanimous approval of the recommendation by the HR Board. By year's end, the HR Board approved the Substance Abuse Policy (to be included in the revised Faculty Manual). Kathy Herron was a staff rep on the Adoption Leave Committee. Parts of policies from SLU Care and Frost Campus were incorporated into the revision of the Winter Storm Policy as well as the Human Resources and Facilities Services policies.

Guest speaker at the April Open Meeting was Fr. Michael Garanzini S.J. the Academic Vice President with the presentation : " Toward the Future". Believing SLU on the way to becoming the best Catholic university in the nation, he credits the dynamic vision of Fr. Biondi and the strong academic leadership of the deans. He believes a service-oriented staff is at SLU willing to do what needs to be done as well as a vibrant faculty. The March General Meeting featured guest Julie Saker Associate Director for Student Development who spoke on the ways staff can influence students. During her alcohol misuse and sexual assault presentation, she stated that staff members often have the most impact on students- many times making them aware of possible solutions to problems. Jack Titone Director of Public Safety in May was happy to speak about the changes and improvements made within the department and the proposed legislative bill to obtain " Commission" status for the Dept. of Public Safety.

Amid much anticipation, the Faculty/Staff Dining Club opened on February 16. Located at the far end of campus near Vandeventer, the Club entrance is on Lindell. A city liquor license for beer and wine had been obtained by March. At the end of the Club, a patio dining area has been created with trees and sculptures. By February 16, meals were ready to be prepared by Chef Jim Love- furniture had been delivered- china, crystal and silverware had arrived. The Frost Loop Billiken Bus has a route that puts you right in front of the Dining Club. SAC members enjoyed a very relaxing social function on June 4 at the Club from 12: 30 – 1: 50. Nice!!!!