

Staff

Advisory

Committee

Yearly

Report

for

2001

Staff Advisory Committee **2001**

Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace.
The soul that knows it not, knows no release from
little things; knows not the livid loneliness of fear,
nor mountain heights where bitter joy can hear the
sound of wings.

Amelia Earhart
1897-1937

In 2001, Staff Advisory Committee members discussed and then passed Proposals A,C and F from the Charter/Protocol Committee. Communication of SAC Activities widened to include a Web Page, articles in the SLU Care newsletter and the Difference is You,the Grand Connections Newsletter and the SLU Newslink. The Archivist distributed the Yearly Report for 2000 and background information for the years 1995 and 1996. The Development Committee and the Mission and Ministry Committee,both of the Board of Trustees , were quite active. The PCC (President's Coordinating Committee) took up the issues of the BMC Expansion, Strategic Planning, the Capital Campaign ,the Danforth Project, Jesuit Mission,ITS, and the budget. Both the PCC and the Human Resources Board discussed tuition remission for Tenet employees. The Office Professional of the Year event was held June 27. The Parking Issues Committee reported no increase in parking fees this year. There is a new category in SLU Stars to honor a person for his or her outside community service. The SLU community joined the rest of the nation on September 11 and the days and weeks to follow in remembering those dead and injured as the result of terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington D.C., and western Pennsylvania. In October, the SAC Open Meeting served as the forum for discussion of the effects of the events of September 11 on the workplace. Those in attendance were urged to take time for prayer and to talk- to friends and to God.

Randy McGuire and his committee were busy all year with 3 proposals. After a first reading in January, Proposal A(Leave of Absence) had the finalized version at the February meeting with a ballot sent out to members for an official vote. Proposal C (Removal from Office) and Proposal F (SAC Membership) had first readings at the February meeting. After the second reading in May and revision in August, both proposals were in the mail to members by October with passage of both in November. In December, a copy of the updated ByLaws was distributed.

Tony Stubblefield in February gave an overview of his 3 part plan to increase communication about SAC. The Web Page was available to the Executive Board in March and launched in April with the SLU Newslink featuring the Web Page the same month. Both the SLU Care Newsletter and the Difference is You had articles on the Web Page (in April) and the new SAC Officers (in August). Grand Connections Newsletter contained information on general SAC awareness all year long.

In June, the Archivist distributed the Yearly Report for 2000. The year 2000 was the 5th full year for the group as the Staff Advisory Committee. In September, SAC Members saw the suggested drawings of the design for the SLU Stars Program in 1995. In October, the results of the Brainstorming Session held after the September 1996 General meeting were shared. In November, the Office of the Provost requested information from SAC to include in their Accreditation Process. Gwenn Asher submitted information that had been recorded by the SAC Archivist. The final report for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools featured information on SAC on page 34 of the 1st volume of the 3 volume set. The SLU self study was entitled "A Decade of Renaissance".

Miriam Hallazgo started the year as the SAC Rep to the Development Committee with Kathleen Herron ending the year in the position. Quarterly meetings of the group stressed the importance of internal audiences (faculty and staff) and the need to continue to have integrated marketing communication initiatives. The Public Relations Dept. has changed its name to University Marketing and Communications to more accurately reflect the full range of communication services and support provided by the dept. The 3rd Annual SLU Day was held with 16 alumnae groups in the United States taking part. University President Fr. Lawrence Biondi S.J. hosted several benefactor dinners early in the year at Cartier House in preparation for the Capital Campaign which has a December kickoff date. Gifts and Private Grants are up in some areas and down in others, but \$1.4 million ahead of last year.

Carolyn Mulhall reported all year on meetings of the Mission and Ministry Committee. The Chair, Rev. Ronald Ferguson and Mrs. Jo Curran ended their terms in May. Also in May, Fr. A. James Blumeyer left SLU for another assignment. Fr. Edward O'Brien is the newly designated Vice President for University Mission and Ministry, effective July 1. He will serve half time and continue as the Minister of SLU Jesuit Community at Jesuit Hall. SLU was awarded a \$1.9 million grant from the Lilly Endowment to identify and cultivate a new generation of talented and religiously committed leaders.

Sandy Pritt reported on PCC meetings. Dr. Thomas Moberg, Vice President and Chief Information Officer of ITS, spoke at 2 meetings sharing news on upgrading the infrastructure, the SLU Website and placing restrictions on student activity during business hours. Robert Woodruff, Associate Vice President, gave presentation on Public Relations and Marketing. PCC over the course of the year also discussed the BMC Expansion, Strategic Planning, the Danforth Project, committee representation, and tuition remission for Tenet employees. 2 key questions for the Capital Campaign:

What do we need?

What will donors give for?

The HR Board discussed 2 topics in depth this year. On March 5, 43 administrative positions were eliminated and 28 vacant positions were closed throughout the University. The reduction was not due to a financial problem but rather the result of having no capacity to do anything new. Positions were identified that could be

eliminated by doing things differently and streamlining the systems. Meetings were held with the individual staff members whose positions were eliminated. They received severance packages and outplacement assistance. The HR Board in September discussed closure after the layoffs. SLU employees who became Tenet employees when the Hospital was sold are now available for two thirds tuition remission. Kathy Hagedorn, Vice President for Human Resources, asked for SAC input regarding the topic and reported in September that SAC input was helpful. A proposal is going forward to the PCC who must approve any change in the benefit option which serves as a recruitment advantage to attract employees.

anna Hogan reported on the Office Professional Committee. The Office Professional of the Year event is to be held on June 27 in the Saint Louis Room of Busch Memorial Center. The speaker will be Kathy Humphrey, the Vice President for Student Development. The format is a half day seminar in the morning and the afternoon with a luncheon between the 2 sessions. Debbie Farmer reported in August that about 160 staff were present at the event with an overall positive feedback- the speaker did a great job.

Susan Torretta reported on the Parking Issues Committee. The big news ,of course, was no increase in parking fees this year. On Frost campus, the Laclede Garage 1) will get more trash cans, 2) will have more patrols, and 3) has designated end spots for small cars. There is a troublesome intersection as you exit from the alley onto Vandeventer just south of Lindell. Childgarden Parking Lot rates are to change. Discussion of pickup/ dropoff spot at Xavier Hall Annex. At HSC, more areas need painting to designate zones and some No Parking signs are recommended. At Frost and HSC, shuttle route changes need to be made known . By December, Susan was serving on the Appeals Subcommittee.

SLU Stars in August added a special category within the program to honor a faculty or staff member for his or her extraordinary community service. In October, Grand Connections announced the first person to receive the “ In Touch with the Community” award is Patrick McCarthy. Head of the Technical Services Dept. at Pius XII Memorial Library since August 1992 and the Associate University Librarian since May 2001, Patrick was selected for his outstanding work with the Bosnian community in Saint Louis. He traveled to Sarajevo in 1994 and returned to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1998. His book “ After the Fall” was published in October 2000. Groups of SLU Stars awardees were honored at breakfast on March 9, June 13 and August 29. Sandy Cox is the new chair.

Sandy Pritt reported on the Retention Committee. The group discussed University academic probation with statistics being gathered on intervention. The group has met with various Deans on ways to handle probation. Students in the past given the label of undecided are now given the label of deciding. It has been found that the more often the major is changed, the higher the loss rate.

Joyce Huelsmann attended the first meeting of the Strategic Planning Group in February where 43 members shared their feelings about what they value at SLU, with

high marks being given for collegiality, supportiveness, friendly atmosphere and focus on students. In February, Fr. Biondi in his Monthly Message via e-mail reported that Provost Johnson continues to work with students, faculty, staff and administrators on Strategic Planning using feedback from the SWOT survey (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). In March, Joyce reported the group identified the top 9 things they feel will affect SLU in the next five years with the # 1 the impact of technology on learning. The April SAC Meeting had Dr. Julie Wiessman from the Provost's Office as a special guest who came to give us an overview of the Strategic Planning process. She returned in November to give an update. The April Website questionnaire revealed SLU is grounded in mission and has a positive core.

Joyce Huelsmann reported on the Human Resources Committee of the Board of Trustees over the course of the year where topics included an overview of HR, salary information and the turnover rate of staff. When Dinorah Bommarito left SLU in March, the Committee to Study Non-Academic Student Facilities lost its SAC rep. James Hooper started the year as the SAC rep to the Academic Affairs Committee, The year closed with Bree Owens in the position. She reported 2 new degree programs have been approved. The IT Committee reported in September an urgent need for members with Steve Gebhart in December the SAC rep. In April, the results of the election: Gwenn Asher the SAC Chair in May, Anna Hogan the SAC Secretary, Carolyn Mulhall the SAC Chair- elect. Joyce Huelsmann to continue as Ex officio member of the SAC Executive Board.

The September 11 terrorist attacks involving 4 passenger jet airliners brought law enforcement officials to the SLU campus as part of the nationwide investigation of all schools of aviation. Classes were cancelled the Friday after the attacks between noon and 1 pm so everyone who wanted could observe the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance. College Church was packed. Noting in his October message that life will never be the same, Fr. Biondi prayed that those who lost their lives on that fateful day are within the protection of God's love.

Fr. Paul C. Reinert, S.J. died in July. In his August message, Fr. Biondi said that like Fr. Barry McGannon, he was a cherished member and a beloved member of the SLU community-that we teach, study and work on a campus born of his wisdom, patience, and persistence. He praised Fr. Reinert and the Board of Trustees at the time Fr. Reinert was President for deciding that SLU would remain in the City of St. Louis. He closed saying the way to honor him would be to continue service to SLU in the same spirit and commitment shown by Fr. Reinert.