TO: PCPS Faculty & Staff
FROM: Diane S. Muniz
DATE: September 26, 2013
SUBJECT: Summary of the September 26, 2013 PCPS Dean’s Conference


Guests: Rev. Ryan Maher, S.J., Mr. Ryan Sheehan, Mr. Edward Steinmetz

The Dean opened the meeting by reading a passage from a book titled Images of Hope by William Lynch, S.J. After the reading, the Dean commented on her first year on campus when people stated that nothing would ever happen with Leahy Hall. She is happy to report that this week something happened. She told the members to keep their imagination flowing because this is a great college. Faculty, staff, and students really believe in hope and imagination. Things are working out well with the traffic, but she asks everyone to be safe and to remind the students to be safe as well.

Rev. Ryan Maher and Mr. Ryan Sheehan were invited to the meeting to speak about the Jesuit Center. Father Maher shared their understanding of what the Jesuit Center is, why it is here and what they are hoping to help happen among the adult members of the University of Scranton. Father Maher explained that the Center engages human beings of good will in intelligent conversations. He stated that we are a faith based institution and a Community that does its work from a tradition that is grounded in faith. We are a Catholic and Jesuit community where everyone is welcome. The Center programmatically seeks to facilitate conversation in many different ways. The Center offered a seminar on “Teaching as Vocation in the Jesuit Tradition” in August. This seminar helped the attendees to understand their role as a teacher and how that connects with what they believe and to what this tradition believes. This seminar will be offered again and Father encourages everyone to consider participating.

Another area that the Center focuses on is to offer people an experience to take people away from the University setting. One such experience involves a pilgrimage to El Salvador. This experience offers persons an opportunity to share in the experiences at the University of Central America, at the tomb of Arch Bishop Romero, and in working in the country side and living with the poor of the country. This experience has been a transformative one for those who have already participated.
Ryan Sheehan, Assistant Director of The Jesuit Center, spoke about the challenges in year one in that they had a mission and goal but needed to figure out how to develop and implement the program. The Center needed to find something that would interest people and would be expressly related to the Jesuit and Catholic mission of the University. Ryan explained that he was interested in offering a seminar for staff that had a monetary stipend attached to it so that staff would know that they value people’s time and that it is something they take seriously. The first seminar was offered in June at Chapman Lake with 17 participants. Two other seminars have taken place; the most recent one was filled to capacity. The Center is also looking at ways to connect to the local churches, the local community, and the marginalized. The Center is planning on launching something soon involving the Kino Boarder initiative which assists the migrant population in southern Arizona and Mexico. He asked that you keep an eye out for this opportunity.

Mr. Edward Steinmetz, senior VP for Finance, informed the members about the University’s budget and the state of the University’s financial affairs. He pointed out that private higher education institutions are under a lot of stress these days, but he feels that currently the University is in a good position. However, the University is not immune to some of the forces and pressures that are impacting all of private higher education. He began the presentation by looking at the budget process that is at the heart of our financial strength. He also spoke about the new process which he referred to as a strategic financial planning process. The strategic financial planning process retains some of the things we are doing well and the stability we have now and seeks to adjust it to face some of the challenges we face in order to remain strong and to react to some of the challenges we anticipate.

Panuska College Updates

- PCPS will be making arrangements to have student background checks and clearances done on campus. More information will be forthcoming.
- Freshmen enrollments are down, but PCPS is doing an awesome job. Thank you for everything you do for students on both the graduate and undergraduate levels.
- Several ideas for new programs: MHA program is going on-line; Nursing is bringing a consultant in to assist in tweaking the Nurse Anesthesia program; Exercise Science is looking at a Master’s in Exercise Physiology; Education is getting close to the 120 credit goal; CHS is looking at a new minor; Darryl DeMarzio is working on the Honors program; OT is looking at a stand-alone Master’s degree; PCPS will form a committee to begin looking at a graduate level physician’s assistant program.

c: Rev. Kevin P. Quinn, S.J.
Dr. Harold Baillie
Deans
PCPS Faculty & Staff
Ms. JoAnn Stavisky
Mr. Edward Steinmetz
Rev. Ryan Maher, S.J.
Mr. Ryan Sheehan