TO: PCPS Dean’s Conference  
FROM: Diane S. Muniz  
DATE: May 15, 2014  
SUBJECT: Summary of the May 15, 2014 Dean’s Conference Meeting

Present: D. Carpenter, V. Castellanos, L. Eschbach, D. Hair, M. Morgan (representing J. Sanko)  
D. Posegate, R. Schwenk, G. Wenzel  
Absent: A. Mantione, J. Sanko, D. West

Today’s meeting focused on the assessment of the PCPS senior student essays. Senior students submitted a 1-2 page typed essay, reflecting on his/her academic service learning experiences over the last four years, and describing how the Jesuit Mission of social justice can be made manifest in their future role as a professional. The members used a rubric to score student essays which were randomly selected from each PCPS department.

On April 9, 2014, the PCPS Board of Visitors interviewed and assessed randomly selected senior students regarding the service learning experience. These interviews were videotaped and will be shown at the August 8, 2014 PCPS Retreat. On May 2, 2014, these videos were shown to the TAPESTRY committee, and the members reflected on the videos. Today’s meeting is the last part of our assessment to close the loop.

Each member was asked to read, score and comment on the essays. The general consensus of the group was that the students have a good understanding of the Jesuit mission of social justice, but they are not connecting the Jesuit mission of social justice to their activities or stating how they will carry it through into their future activities.

The group was asked to brainstorm action steps for our College. Suggestions made were:

- Students need to know what the Jesuit mission of social justice is and what it means to them personally.
- During the freshman year offer an orientation to the meaning of the Jesuit mission of social justice and then have the students write an essay describing their understanding. This can be used as a foundation for their service experiences over the next four years.
- Essays should be written and submitted earlier in the semester of their senior year. Host a meeting or bring in a speaker for the senior class to refresh their thoughts about the Jesuit mission.
- Senior students can speak to undergraduate students about service learning and the connection to the Mission.
- Although service learning is course related and the service may be population focused, students need to learn to see the big picture regarding their experience’s fit with social justice.
- During the freshmen year, there needs to be more emphases on what the Jesuit mission and social justice are and how they need to connect more clearly to service.
• Visual cues need to be placed around the building showcasing the Jesuit mission of social justice.
• We are not just service learning, we are academic service learning, and it is developmental through our curriculum and our projects. A better message needs to be sent out about working for social justice.
• We need to remind them about what kind of institution they have attended, what we hope to promote, and how that is something they need to think about as they are moving forward in their careers.

We will share some of these essays with the TAPESTRY committee at the fall meeting and ask the members to score the essays. We will share your suggestions, and we ask that you share all of this with your department.

September 10th will be the date of our mandatory freshmen lecture. Father Ryan Maher will be the keynote lecturer for our PCPS freshman class. A suggestion was made to change the questions which the graduate student discussion leaders use to focus more on social justice and the Jesuit mission. The 2014 PCPS freshman essay will then be compared to the senior essay submitted prior to the May 2018 graduation.

New Programs in PCPS
Education—Early and Primary and Middle Level programs were revised to consolidate the competencies and to reduce the number of credits. A new minor in Education will begin in the fall. The Graduate Curriculum and Instruction Supervision program was approved. This program will allow graduates to become eligible to apply for certification in Curriculum and Instruction Supervision. The department plans to revise the Reading Education program in the next academic year.

Counseling & Human Services—Graduates of the Master of Science degree in School Counseling will be eligible for certification for grades K-12.

Exercise Science & Sport—A Pre-Health, Pre-Med track for Exercise Science has been developed and approved. Thanks to Drs. Joan Grossman, Victoria Castellanos and Mary Engel for their work on this proposal.

Nursing—The Anesthesia program will be on campus as of June 1, 2014. Three new faculty specialist and an administrative assistant have been recently hired. The DNP will be up and running for fall of 2015.

The ACOTE (Occupational Therapy) and CACREP (Counseling & Human Services) site visits went very well.

c: PCPS Faculty & Staff
   Interim Provost
   Academic Deans
   Kate Yerkes