

**THE BISHOP JOHN S. CUMMINS INSTITUTE FOR
CATHOLIC THOUGHT, CULTURE AND ACTION**

Saint Mary's College of California

Annual Report 2006 - 2007

DRAFT

Chair's Three-Year Term Goals

At the 13 September 2004 meeting, Frances Sweeney turned over the position of Chair of the Institute to Brother Donald Mansir, FSC. At that time, Brother Donald set out his goals for the Institute based on a meeting with the President and Provost, Brother Craig Franz, FSC and Dr. Sally Stamp, respectively. The primary goal was to increase the visibility of the Institute. At his meeting with the current President, Brother Ronald Gallagher, FSC, it was agreed to continue this effort. Ways in which this has been attempted over the past three years include:

1. Work on a webpage for the Institute

This past year the webpage was completed and was published with the new college website. The page is found under "Catholic" which is a subsite of "Core Traditions" found under "Lasallian Approach." Though Brother Donald expressed concern about the link design, he was advised it was not possible to change the link.

2. Work on a logo for the Institute

While Ron Olowin and Brother Donald have been working for three years with the Publications Department, no logo has been decided. Little assistance and follow through have come from the Publications Department. Brother Donald and Ron will complete the task themselves, present a logo to the Board for approval, and then send it to the President for final approval.

3. Work on a brochure for the Institute

Delay of completion is because no logo has been finalized. However, since the copy is ready, the brochure will be completed and provided to the Board this Fall [2007] for approval and made available.

4. Publish clear guidelines for requests for funding

Guidelines for requests were completed and promulgated.

As the direct result of discussions concerning the guidelines, the members agreed that they needed to come to a clear consensus about priorities. They members further agreed that they need to read works concerning Catholic higher education in order to decide on priorities. Therefore, an ad hoc committee was formed to select readings and led discussions these readings. Prof. Ted Tsukahara and Prof. Alexis Doval volunteered. The readings selected were: Catholic Higher Education, Morey & Piderit, eds.; Fides et Ratio, and The Idea of a University, John Henry Cardinal Newman. The members also discussed the “core curriculum” in preparation for a meeting with the Core Curriculum Task Force.

5. Regular reports from constituencies

Reports were made by Campus Ministry, CILSA, Henning, and student representatives.

6. Increased collaboration with CILSA, Campus Ministry, the Religious Studies Department, and the Deans.

The Cummins Institute encouraged students working with CILSA and Campus Ministry – as well as student government – to work with the Institute on events and projects. To this end, the Institute made grants for students to attend the Huether Conference in San Francisco, for students to attend the Immersion Project at Fort Benning, for students to participate in both Jan Term and Easter Break trips to NOLA, supported the student senate petition that the College make every effort not to purchase items from “sweat shops,” participated in the Katie Springer God and Science Panel Discussion on “Abortion” sponsored by the School of Science, and supported the Sustainability Project sponsored by the School of Liberal Arts.

The Cummins Institute assisted the Religious Studies Department with its “Catholic Classics” project, conducted by Prof. Zach Flanigan; and the Henning Institute with its annual Conference. The Institute has begun collaboration with the Henning Institute with its Episcopal Lecture Series.

A complete list of grants is included in the Finance Report [Appendix B].

In collaboration with the current President it was agreed to:

- Collaborate more with local ordinary and the regional church:
 1. The Board, primarily through the efforts of Bishop John Cummins, continues to be in contact with the US Bishop's Committee on Science and Human Values. The Board hopes to become a regular consulting body to the Bishop's Committee.

Specific Accomplishments for 2006 – 2007

Membership

Efforts were made to identify and appoint persons to each of the representative positions: Brother Charles Hilken, FSC was appointed as Brother Representative [October 2006], Prof. Kara Boatman was appointed as representative from the School of Economics and Business [October 2006], Sharon Sobotta was appointed as staff representative [October 2006], and Annie Chase was appointed student representative [September 2006]. The Governing Board Membership is found in Appendix A.

Catholic Intellectual Tradition Conference

It was agreed that this year a public lecture would be linked with the conference. Rosemary Haughton directed the conference and gave a lecture the Monday before the beginning of the conference. There were about 150 persons in attendance; mostly from the local parishes. Darcy Tarbell, Administrative Assistant and David Gentry-Akin worked with local parishes.

Board Reading Series

As mentioned above, the members agreed to discuss readings concerning the Catholic intellectual tradition. The discussions proved worthwhile and motivated the members to look at ways in which the Institute can be more pro-active in advancing the Catholic ethos on the campus, in promoting the Catholic intellectual tradition across the campus, in providing assistance to the Core Curriculum Task Force, the Rank and Tenure Committee, and the EPB. This will be an on-going effort for the next three years.

The Next Three Years

The Board recommended to the President and Provost that Brother Donald Mansir, FSC be reappointed Chair for a second term. With this recommendation and after meeting with Brother Donald, the appointment was made.

Brother Donald will wait until after the submission of the Annual Report to the President and Provost and his meeting with them to discuss the Institute goals for the next three years. Nevertheless, items from his previous term not yet completed will include completion of a logo for the Institute and a brochure.

A more pro-active approach towards college constituencies will also be made as indicated above.

Chair's Personal Statement

I would be remiss if I did not express my gratitude to the Governing Board. I am particularly thankful to Ted Tsukahara and Alexis Doval for their thoughtful planning and implementation for our discussions on readings concerning Catholic higher education. Thanks, too, to Annie Chase and Shane Keane who were tremendous assets to the Board and whose participation led to increased collaboration with students. I am grateful to Scott Kier who volunteered to get monthly financial statements out in a manner we were all able to understand. To Darcy Tarbell, thanks for all of the behind the scenes work to arrange for meetings, refreshments, much of the Catholic intellectual tradition conference, and helping so thoughtfully on the Finance Committee.

Finally, though expressed at our last meeting, I want to personally thank Janet Luce again for her tremendous work on the Board, since before its inception! Her vision, concern, and generous participation have contributed to whatever success the Institute has had these past years. "We know that God goes with you!"

Yours sincerely in Christ the Teacher,

Brother Donald Mansir, FSC
Chair

12 September 2007