

Student Comments

Key Questions

I – How contemporary a college does Saint Mary's want to be?

1. It's important to stick with traditions like Seminar, and continue to teach the great books. But, the college's outlook and stance needs to be more up to date. Simple, yet vital changes surrounding health and wellness, sex education and providing birth control for students.
2. I definitely like the idea of "contemporary with traditions". We live in a fast paced world that students need to be ready for after college. Within the seminar program the traditional texts are very valuable. Many colleges do not include those in their curriculum and that is what sets SMC apart. Along with that the traditional texts can apply to the modern world.
3. Even though we're a Catholic college – I'd like to see SMC offer what other universities offer – open sex education, offering birth control. I'd like to see our library updated – it needs to compete with the big universities. I'd like to see SMC bring speakers that are more "contemporary" i.e. people from the literary, political, medical, technological world.
4. We want to be contemporary towards our traditions with ideas but still have motivations to move forward, i.e. variety w/the readings. Having a mixture with epic stories and books as well as modern times. Including radical ideas that will challenge our beliefs.
5. Saint Mary's shouldn't be the "cutting edge" school, but instead be a college with traditional ideas as well as new contemporary ideas.
6. Cannot be everything that other colleges are capable of

Being contemporary but traditional

Getting more science courses and more diverse majors
7. Nix the Silicon Valley tech identity idea. Perhaps explore more contemporary critical thoughts and ideas. Branding as study traditional methods of inquiry, (i.e. Socratic Method) but to examine more contemporary issues i.e. globalization, abortion etc.
8. I think SMC can emphasize some unique characteristics like Seminar, like Jan Term, and publicize these unique attributes more, and maybe integrate a connection between the past and modern times.
9. Contemporary to me means being more in touch with the relevant issues that are occurring in our country and across the world. Our students are not in touch with the global community. The only time I ever see people reading the news paper is in some business classes.

10. Saint Mary's has to define itself. The image that SMC defines itself as the world shall see.
11. SMC needs to be contemporary yet hold true to its traditions. Becoming contemporary doesn't always mean creating new things but revising the old.
12. Can't be everything. Keep certain traditions that support Core Principles while dropping same that will inhibit the Core Principles.
13. SMC wants to keep its traditions and values the same, but be contemporary as well in areas such as academics, living situations and so on. For Example, keep up with the times and the generations coming in, but at the same time, keep the traditions and values that are the foundations of the school ex. technology, living situations, food, facilities, service....
14. We want to be up to date, but maintain our traditions and "small" college image to remain.
15. I completely agree with Senator Tim Huey's statement, however, I feel that Saint Mary's is a traditional school. I believe that the traditional part makes it what it is. However, just as Senator Scranton stated we should become contemporary with the Sex Ed aspect.
16. (Contemporary) we can't pick everything – after more than any other colleges – contemporary with traditions (up to date)

II – How local or global a college does Saint Mary's want to be?

1. Focus on U.S. or International relations? Global = diversity – global enables students to learn about international ideas and opinions. We are global to outsiders!!
2. The inclusiveness is what I chose Saint Mary's for. I want the school to be seen nationally, but keep it small and west coast.
3. SMC should be focusing on local aspects to serve those, locally, but expand as well on a global scale to ensure diversity in students in learning; stay a small college, reach out to the world.
4. More global to promote diversity and experiences. Can learn from different people around the world.
5. Saint Mary's needs to be more global in the sense that not only people in California desire to come here but globally for people to come here because of the brand and great quality of SMC.
6. Honestly being local is boring. Global is how SMC will be able to connect itself to the world instead of just tiny Moraga.
7. We should be recruiting internationally, but stick to a certain set of criteria to help us choose the students. Global or local really isn't as important as how we choose our students, and what standards we hold our incoming students to.

8. Definitely global by using the unique location to the Bay. Emphasize that St. Mary's can affect the world through global learning like through Study abroad options.
9. Global in student body, take advantage of Lasallian network more for exchange of ideas work on integration of exchange students, foreign students etc.
10. Local = California
Global = USA
Global = better points of view & talents
Does not have to be black & white
11. I think that Saint Mary's should try to focus on a more global setting because most small colleges are automatically considered local for their size. However, global branching brings more insight.
12. Very global. It's important to play a big part in the local area, but having the opportunity to connect with the rest of the world, because we are a Lasallian school is a privilege. We want to enrich our community with various cultures and tradition. Promote acceptance.
13. In terms of pulling students – pull from neighboring states, really promote going outside of local community also expose how global we actually are right now. Our focus educational and awareness should be global – what's going on outside of Moraga.
14. Global outreach is definitely needed for student to be enriched in every aspect of what the world has to offer. Saint Mary's being directly linked with the international Lasallian program, how can we not be global?
15. It's incredibly important to look globally; to bring people and ideas from outside the area in order for people to become more well rounded individuals.
16. Talked about "Reputation" shouldn't that speak for it self– than spending so much money globally? Study abroad – good opportunity to publicize.
17. I think SMC should be working on a global level but still tied near to its local roots. We are nothing without our CA and Bay Area roots and even the city of Moraga has aided into creating Saint Mary's as we know it with keeping touch with our heritage and traditions.

III – How willing is SMC to include its graduate school programs within its character and identity?

1. Providing more information about the graduate programs to both interested possible undergraduate admits as well as for current undergraduates.
2. I feel the graduate & undergraduate are both a part of the same community so yes the character & identity should be universal and include both program/schools!
3. Very willing – having that insurance of having the option of going
4. Most graduate schools are separate, which I think is a good idea because when you are considering graduate school, you rarely hear the ties about the attachments of the undergraduate – graduate program. .
5. Can give a shorter time in college altogether.
6. Until internal climate changes to include graduate school in interactions more we shouldn't include grad school in Identity, but it will be beneficial in long run for admission to include grad school in identity.
7. The grad school and its graduates can attest to the success of SMC as an institution. I think a Law School would be a good idea as competing institutions have law schools like USC, Santa Clara, etc.
8. No thoughts at this time on this one.
9. SMC and the graduate program should be under one.
10. SMC grad schools should be within SMC's identity.
11. Should be willing in order to show students can come for both undergraduate and Graduate.
12. It seems that SMC doesn't much promote its graduate programs; however, it should begin to present more of the graduate school programs not only to undergrad students but to anyone and everyone looking to get into graduate school.
13. We are very willing to do so.
14. I think it's important to have on identity because it is important that undergraduates know because I feel may (myself included) had no idea till senior year.
15. Graduate program want their own identity. We should be universal – allow undergraduates to continue in graduate program – we both identify with SMC!

IV – Which of the following unique values does Saint Mary's want its brand image to convey?

1. Personalized/student-centric focus (9) – intimate class setting, small size
2. Shaping values, encouraging reflection, inspiring service (9) – unique w/seminar, Jan term

3. Instilling the skills to learn, contribute, and lead for life (8)
4. Seeking and developing potential in many forms (6)
5. Encouraging excellence (5)
6. Generous, inclusive, compassionate (5) – Close community
7. Broad based education and critical thinking emphasis (5)
8. Creating bonds (5)
9. World-focused curriculum and programs (4)
10. Enabling the American dream (4)
11. Harmonious, civil, respectful (3)
12. Academic and spiritual inquiry combined (3)
13. Exceptional faculty (3)
14. Illuminating each student's personal path (3)
15. Delivering life-changing experiences (3)
16. Building confident individuality (2)
17. Challenging and rigorous (2)
18. Egalitarian learning – “ We are all learners here” (2)
19. Diversity that works (2)
20. Citizens of the world (2)
21. Willing to take risks and explore (1)
22. Equipping individuals to confront issues without fear (1)
23. Making a difference (1)
24. Globally aware and competitive (1)

