MISSION ASSESSMENT TASK FORCE PROGRESS REPORT 9/24/10

CRITERIA RELATED TO BROAD MISSION OUTCOMES/THMES

OUTCOME I

*We know our Saint Mary’s College Mission is effective when there is evidence of...*

**Education for human fulfillment and a sense of vocation both individually and communally**

**Liberal Arts**

a. Students, faculty and staff nurture the habits of the mind that emphasize how to think, not what to think, using critical thinking skills to engage in the process of inquiry and to pursue lines of thought to completion. (1a, 1b, 1e)

b. Students understand the continuity and development of ideas through knowledge of history, human cultures and the physical and natural world. (1e, 1g)

c. Students develop an aesthetic sensibility that crosses subject areas. (1d)

d. Students come to know that the pursuit of knowledge is intrinsically valuable. (2a)

e. Educators are lifelong learners with the appropriate degrees and credentials, who direct their own professional development in order to keep current in their fields and to meet needs and challenges of their students’ learning.

**Lasallian**

a. The College fosters an identity in which the living presence of God is cultivated and that includes respect for all faith traditions.

b. The College has a clear and visible affiliation with its Lasallian heritage that permeates the entire life of the college, and demonstrates a consistent practice of Lasallian core principles.
c. Lasallian educators understand that vocation is more than just a job. Students, faculty and staff are assisted in discerning and responding to their vocations, understanding potential professional contributions, and choosing particular career directions. (19.1)

Catholic

a. Respect for the Moral Dimension of Intellectual Pursuits: There is an appreciation of the fact that knowledge is not pursued in a vacuum, that our work has an impact on the world. (4.1)

b. Integration of Learning Toward each Individuals’ Coherent World View: Some mechanism, in the curriculum, for attempting to ‘put it all together’ at the end of four years of instruction at Saint Mary’s. How has your Saint Mary’s education impacted your worldview? How will it influence your future choices? (5.1)

c. Students are encouraged to put their values to work by becoming involved in service to the wider Church and community, including promoting peace and justice locally, nationally, and globally. (8.3)

OUTCOME II

*We know our Saint Mary’s College Mission is effective when there is evidence of…*

**Integrative and collaborative learning infused with a personal care for students such as modeled by Jesus with his disciples**

**Liberal Arts**

a. Students experience the interdisciplinary nature of knowledge (3a)
b. Students and faculty have opportunities for integration of their knowledge and experiences so as to connect the academic disciplines with the development of the student.

c. Students, faculty and staff share a theory-to-practice orientation to teaching, learning, and being in the world. (3d)

d. Students are active participants in shared inquiry and campus leadership. (4a)

Lasallian

a. The College pursues innovative, student-centered educational programs and experiences that recognize and respond to present-day needs and realities.

b. A common mission and vision, rooted in the heritage of St. John Baptist de La Salle that is accomplished by working together and by association, unite the College and ministries worldwide.

Catholic

a. Students learning experience includes Christian service, liturgy, and evangelization.

b. There is a vibrant liturgical and sacramental life on campus (16.1)

c. Students have grown in their spiritual development during and after their formal instruction and demonstrate an ability to engage real life issues from a theological point of view.(12.1)

OUTCOME III

We know our Saint Mary’s College Mission is effective when there is evidence of...

Commitment to the common good that respects the dignity of all and favors the needs of the most vulnerable
**Liberal Arts**

a. Students learn the skills and principles required for ethical decision-making and problem solving. (5a)

b. Students, faculty and staff participate in programs and coursework that explore and promote the common good as understood in the Catholic context. (5b)

c. Academic coursework is designed to help students recognize the impact of societal decisions on the poor and vulnerable. (8.1)

d. College policies reflect the common good and social justice aims. (5d)

**Lasallian**

a. The College is accessible to the economically poor and marginalized.

b. The College gives special attention to the needs of individual students – academic, economic, social, spiritual.

c. The College provides a wide range of educational programs focused on justice education and including community-focused learning that provide all students with the opportunity for an education that embodies the principles and practices of Catholic Social Teaching with the hope of life-long commitment to social justice and service.

d. The College promotes the dignity of the human condition locally and internationally, opposes injustices and honors all persons.

**Catholic**

a. Academics, Student Life, and all college programming advocate a consistent ethic of life, acknowledging the intrinsic worth of all human life, from conception to natural death. (7.1)

b. The themes of Catholic Social Teaching are intentionally infused in all courses that include social justice, service learning, and community-based research. (8.2)

c. Opportunities are created whereby students may experience, reflect upon,
and act from a commitment to justice, mercy, and compassion, and in light of Catholic Social Teaching to develop a culture of respect and responsibility for all, especially those most in need. (17.1)

d. Environmental awareness and sustainability is supported in academics, campus life, and administrative decision-making. (11.1)

OUTCOME IV

We know our Saint Mary’s College Mission is effective when there is evidence of...

Nourishment of the mind and spirit through a dialogue of faith and reason and the experience of communal and sacramental rituals

Liberal Arts

a. Students attempt to resolve the great questions that arise from common human experience, probe for fundamental principles and causes, and seek truth and meaning which transcends human life itself. (2c)

b. Students, faculty and staff have ample opportunities for reflection and contemplation on learning experiences inside and outside the classroom--individually, in groups, and as a community. (3c)

c. Students experience mentoring, common intellectual experiences, and collegial relationships with faculty and staff. (4b)

Lasallian

a. Educators bear witness to the holy presence of God and share their faith through their relationships.
b. Spiritual formation and religious education provide the environment and opportunities for the students, faculty and staff to grow in and practice their faith.

Catholic

a. The vibrant presence across campus of scholars of all faith traditions who are committed to the dialogue of faith and reason and who demonstrate this commitment in their teaching and research agenda, [working with] [1.2.] a critical mass of Catholic intellectuals in all disciplines who are steeped in the Catholic intellectual tradition and who are equipped to mentor others in that tradition(1.3)

b. The college calendar reflects the importance of a vibrant liturgical and sacramental life on campus. (6.1)

c. Through formal and informal experiences, students, faculty and staff have an ability to engage real life issues from a theological point of view. (12.1)

OUTCOME V

*We know our Saint Mary’s College Mission is effective when there is evidence of...*

**Hospitable and civil community whose inclusivity mirrors the communion of the People of God**

**Liberal Arts**

a. Students, faculty and staff are competent in working with and relating to members of the community from different cultural backgrounds. (5c)

b. Students, faculty, and staff dialogue clearly, logically and respectfully. (1c)

c. Students, faculty and staff participate in programs that expand their understanding of the role of civically engaged citizen leaders. (5b)
d. Students, faculty, and staff demonstrate receptivity to diverse ideas and ways of knowing. (1a, 1c, 5c)

Lasallian

a. The ethos of the College embodies a community that gives special attention to personal and caring relationships, as modeled in this vision and experience of De La Salle.

b. The College teaches and encourages spirited and respectful dialogue and hospitality within its community that helps create a welcoming, safe, and caring environment.

Catholic

a. Persons, in all of their uniqueness and diversity, are made to feel that their contribution to the College community is welcomed and valued. (9.1)

b. All members of the community are challenged to high standards of personal behavior and responsibility. (18.1)

c. College decisions reflect a commitment to shared governance (subsidiarity).