THE BISHOP JOHN S. CUMMINS INSTITUTE  
FOR CATHOLIC THOUGHT, CULTURE AND ACTION  
Saint Mary’s College of California  
November 9, 2010

Present: Bishop John Cummins, Seefurth Chair, Brother Charles Hilken, FSC, Sally Jamison, Administrative Assistant, Michael Barram, Jane Camarillo, Jeanne DeMatteo, David Gentry-Akin, Scott Kier, Marie Lawler, Marc Nava, Frances Sweeney, Marshall Welch, Roy Wensley, Brother Martin Yribarren, Joseph Zepeda, Jill Bockenkamp, freshman Senator, sitting in for Freddie Silveria as ASSMC representative

Jeanne DeMatteo led opening prayer for the members.

Introduction of guests.

Guests: International Association of Lasallian Universities. 2010 Rome participants, Professors Mary Volmer, Christopher Jones and Larisa Genin. Each faculty member outlined the projects that are the outcome of their IALU participation. Mary introduced the experience. Chris spoke about the La Salle University “blue” book that he intends, with the assistance of others, to reproduce for Saint Mary’s. Larisa gave a report on the group project to showcase Lasallian initiatives. The focus of the project is to work with the Office of Mission and Carole Swain to build strategic alliances with Lasallian connections worldwide. The project would involve revamping the Mission website to showcase all Lasallian initiatives. Included in the discussion was the possibility of an IALU Chapter to be formed on campus. It was suggested by Marshall Welch that the Social Justice Coordinating Committee would be a good source of information. The IALU presenters will be reaching out to the community to gather information and coordinating with the 150th college celebration.

Minutes read, corrected and approved.

A question was raised about the final outcome of the question of the Institute publicly supporting the educational panels around the performance of Angels in America. Brother Charles reminded the group about the condition we had stipulated that Bishop Cummin’s advice would be sought before giving our public support. We declined the invitation to co-sponsor the panels following the bishop’s counsel that a public association between an episcopal authority and a piece of literature that is potentially divisive in the faith and worshipping community is not appropriate. It was interesting to note that Bishop John’s counsel came in part from his experience in the 1960s with division over the reception of J. D. Salinger, Catcher in the Rye.

Financial Report

Report on the Montini Fellow visit and the Mary Conference. The finance committee has had no further discussion about the Christian Service Internship requests. Information was passed out to the members. Brother Charles will follow up with additional information.
Jan Term proposal. David Gentry-Akin led a discussion of the possibility of “Faith and Reason” -
designated courses. This prompted a discussion of the essence of Jan Term. The point was made that
Social Justice courses serve the same purpose as Faith and Reason based courses.

Question: Would these be limited to Catholic? Would they count as religious studies classes?

Cummins supports all faith groups.

Is there a connection with Core Curriculum and these proposals?

Mission and Ministry

Marie Lawler, Director, gave an update on the status of the Mission and Ministry Center and their
accomplishments, including progress with a search for a new team member.

Presentation, Susie Miller-Reid, Director of International Programs

Discussion of the draw at Saint Mary’s for International students and how to increase the enrollment.
Members engaged in a discussion connecting the reading, “Higher Education in a Global
Context”, Archbishop Marchetto.

Next Cummins meeting: December 14.