For 2013-2014, my objective as Chair was to continue the initiatives that were begun in 2012-2013 and to see them through to their logical conclusion. I am pleased to report that we accomplished some of our goals: 1) Implementation of commuter benefits, 2) Raising the age limit on tuition remission for children of staff and faculty to be consistent with the policy for tuition exchange (up to age 26), and 3) Further investigation of childcare benefits, including the back-up dependent care option.

We also hosted a number of special presentations from key College figures during our meetings. In March, President Jim Donahue spoke to our group as did the consulting firm, Bright Horizons, who revisited the results from the child care study they did for the College in 2012. In April, Lisa Moore visited to educate us on Advancement initiatives. And in May, Pete Michell provided an update on the budget for 2014-2015.

Our new Communications and Outreach Committee has helped to raise campus-wide awareness of the Council through flyers, digital signage, an enhanced website, and the creation of a Staff Council brochure that was distributed to all new employees for the first time in June. Our Bylaws and Elections Committee handled this year’s election with aplomb and we welcomed (6) new members to the Council in June at our year-end retreat. Compensation and Benefits was very active within the larger Employee Benefits and Compensation Committee (EBAC), which is in the process of re-examining the tenets of our healthcare benefits. Staff Development and Climate’s Personal and Professional Development Series was well-received. They also collaborated with Human Resources on the second annual Staff Learnabout, where staff had an opportunity to learn from peers who have a particular talent they wish to share. At the Convocation during De La Salle Week, we presented the honoree, Brother Armin Altamirano Luistro, FSC, Secretary of the Department of Education, Republic of the Philippines, with a special gift from staff.

We arrived at a workable succession plan for the 2014-2015 Staff Council leadership. Former Treasurer, Janet Amador, and Secretary, Rita Pearson, graciously agreed to serve as Co-Chairs with Sara Mumolo as Chair-Elect. The new stipend for Staff Council Chair will be split between them. Janet and Rita supported me this past year in the absence of a chair-elect so the transition to co-chairs has been fairly painless for them. In an attempt to ease the burden of office, we hope to receive some administrative support for the co-chairs from the Human Resources Department.

Staff Council looks forward to continuing our work with the campus community in the fall.