

May 2020

Final version approved by CCIE

## **CHARGE OF THE RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY AND INTERFAITH ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP OF THE CCIE<sup>1</sup>**

**College Committee on Inclusive Excellence Vision Statement:** We, of Saint Mary's College of California, are dedicated to treating all people with dignity and respect in ways that acknowledge and engage diverse backgrounds and ideas. Our policies, practices, and behaviors foster a safe and inclusive community and promote learning that is equitable, collaborative, and inspired by the presence of God in and among us.

### **Subcommittee Vision:**

In the spirit of our Lasallian Catholic heritage we are committed to lifting the voices of all members of our community, including those of all faith traditions and those who orient around religion, faith, and spirituality in a variety of ways.

We recognize that our communities are comprised of vast intersecting identities and cultures. We aim to actively inform and support policies and practices, as well as "appreciative knowledge, positive attitudes and behaviors and relationships" <sup>2</sup> fostering inclusive community-building to promote healing and wellness among members of our faith traditions. We seek a campus community that embraces religious diversity as it seeks to fulfill its mission of *fides quarens intellectum*, and we view interfaith excellence as central to our dialogue and action.

### **Membership:**

The working group shall be chaired by the Vice President for Mission and one other member of the working group. The core working group shall consist of representatives of faculty, staff, and students, ideally including the following offices/groups who are directly involved in initiatives supporting religious diversity and interfaith engagement: The Christian Brothers, Theology and Religious Studies Department, Mission and Ministry Center, the Center for Engaged Religious Pluralism (CERP), the Intercultural Center, Student Life, the Cummins Institute for Catholic Thought, Culture, and Action, the Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action (CILSA), and the Office of Mission. The College Provost and the Associate Provost & Senior Diversity Officer shall be considered ex-officio members of the subcommittee. The Religious Diversity and Interfaith Engagement Working Group will also remain an open space available to members of the Saint Mary's community who seek ways to contribute to the Religious Diversity and Interfaith Engagement charge.

**Charge:** The Religious Diversity and Interfaith Engagement Working Group hopes to advance accountability of Saint Mary's College of California, as a community and institution, to inform and promote its policies and practices regarding community members of all faith traditions.

The Religious Diversity and Interfaith Engagement Working Group will develop and make recommendations to the College Committee on Inclusive Excellence (CCIE) as well as provide direct support and advocacy on the following:

- a. Identify the opportunity gaps and call for changes in support of students both graduate and undergraduate of all faith traditions in terms of academic and personal success, as well as promote and ensure a safe and welcoming College experience;
- b. Promote and ensure that faculty and staff of all faith traditions who work at Saint Mary's College have an equitable and safe environment to thrive and excel as well as identify the opportunity gaps and call for changes in support as needed;

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<sup>1</sup> Inspired by and adapted from the SMC Black Lives Matter working group of CCIE, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Patel, E (2012). *Sacred Ground: Pluralism, prejudice, and the promise of America*. Boston: Beacon Press.

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c. Serve as a campus and community resource for events, curricular and co-curricular opportunities, and organizational information that is of interest or benefit to students and their families, faculty and staff of all faith traditions.