

To: Saint Mary's University Community

From: Michael Meagher, Chair, Board of Trustees
Mary Ann Remick, Chair, Presidential Search Committee

Date: August 13, 2007

Re: Presidential Search Update

The Presidential Search Committee will strive throughout the search -- and particularly in the early stages -- to ensure that its process is inclusive. As part of that effort, the Presidential Search Committee will hold open meetings from September 4 – 7, 2007 to receive input from the campus community. The open meetings will be facilitated by Allen Koenig, Ph.D., search counsel for the Presidential Search Committee. The schedule for the open meetings is attached.

The purpose of the open meetings is to solicit input on what attributes the next president should have to lead Saint Mary's; to identify what type of individual would be able to bring his or her own vision to Saint Mary's University; and to identify any other challenges or opportunities Saint Mary's University is facing that need to be part of the incoming president's priorities for the university.

In addition, faculty, staff, students, and alumni may offer their perspectives about the qualifications for the next president by email to presidential-search@smumn.edu or by completing the Presidential Search Input Form at <http://www.smumn.edu/input>.

Based on the input received during this initial phase of its work, the Presidential Search Committee will develop a Presidential Profile -- to be made available to the university community -- that will articulate the characteristics Saint Mary's University seeks in its next president. Once that document is created, public meetings on both campuses will be held to receive comments/recommendations on the Presidential Profile. The Presidential Search Committee will then begin the confidential process of researching and identifying prospective candidates for the position.

All of the advice the Presidential Search Committee has received indicate that a confidential process is critical to a successful search. The best candidates will not appear for an open or compromised search. Thus, a confidential search process will ensure the widest possible range of candidates. Confidentiality protects candidates whose current jobs could be jeopardized if their employers learned of the search, or whose reputations could suffer significant damage in the event that they were not selected. The Presidential Search Committee strongly believes that failure to conduct the presidential search in a highly confidential manner would adversely affect the number and quality of the candidates who would be interested in applying for the position.

The Presidential Search Committee is comfortable that the significant efforts to obtain input at the beginning of the process, as well as the representation of campus constituencies among the membership of the Presidential Search Committee itself, will allow the Committee to consider all community voices throughout the search process.

For your information, we have attached the timeline for the presidential search process. We will keep you updated as the search process moves forward.