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Our Biggest Question

02.17.2012 | Catholic, Campus and Community

What does it mean to be a Catholic, Marianist university? For more than 18 months, a campus-wide Mission and Identity Task Force explored that question, with the goal of sparking campus dialogue and making recommendations for strengthening the University's religious identity.

The committee identified ways the mission is expressed across campus, inventoried Catholic and Marianist programming for students, faculty and staff, and posed questions for discussion.

Faculty and staff are invited to read the task force's two draft reports, ***Articulating the Mission and Identity of the University of Dayton: Common Themes*** and ***Sustaining Our Mission and Identity***, write down their comments and RSVP for one of six informal lunches in February and March. Slots are still available for the March 15 and March 21 lunches.

The Academic Senate responded to the reports at a special 3-5 p.m. meeting on Friday, Feb. 17. The task force is working with the Student Government Association to schedule a special forum for students. Members of the task force also are available to visit divisions for conversations.

The 22-member task force was co-chaired by Bro. Ray Fitz, S.M., past president, and Paul Vanderburgh, associate provost and dean of graduate, professional and continuing education. Fitz led the campus through similar studies in 1990 and 2000.

All faculty and staff were mailed the draft reports, but they're also available at www.udayton.edu/mission_and_identity (url: http://www.udayton.edu/mission_and_identity), where an online reservation form for the lunches can be found. The task force also welcomes feedback through the site's online form.

Feedback will be used to develop recommendations for articulating, sustaining and strengthening the University's Catholic, Marianist mission and identity over the next five years. A final report is expected to be issued in the fall.

For more information, contact Teri Rizvi at 937-229-3255 or rizvi@udayton.edu.