

February 11, 2009

Dear Linda and Shawn,

I'd like to thank both of you for your cooperation in the process of clarifying the College's commitment to the Dominica Service-Learning Project. As I believe you know, I initiated the project in 2002 with Anne Herron and Jeanne Darby. Since that time I have brought students to Dominica a total of five times, accompanied by various faculty, administrators and staff members. Patty Schmidt went three of those times. All College-employee participants have donated their time and services and, in most cases, paid their own way. The number of students has ranged from nine to twenty-five.

I'm grateful to both Student Development and Academic Affairs for the financial support you have given the program over the years, even as that support has not yet been formalized. The College has given some financial support each year except in 2007.

As you are aware, I began the program as a complement to the learning communities that were just beginning in 2000. As time went on, I have revised the program to include a formal academic component and to limit participation to students who are or have been members of the LEAD learning community. At present, students who participate in the program must also register for REL 100 (Catholic Theological Reflection on Service), a one-credit course. As preparation for the experience, students take Rel 200 (Religious Perspectives on the Human Situation) and URB 303/EDU 303/ENG 382/ ENG383 (Multicultural Literacy for Urban Education) before participating in the program.

The College provides financial support as well as full-time personnel for Campus Ministry's Alternative Breaks Program, which has opted against an integrated academic component. I understand that in 2009 the College paid half the cost of the Alternative Break to Kenya, which included ten students and two chaperons. Each student was responsible for the other half, i.e. \$1,800. Presumably, the College covered the expenses of the chaperons, making the total amount of financial support from the College in the neighborhood of \$25,000. Personnel from Campus Ministry helped the students in fund-raising activi-

ties. The College continues to provide financial support for their domestic alternative breaks as well.

As you know, neither compensation nor personnel support from the College is provided for running the Dominica Service-Learning Project. I began conversations with Bob Kelly, then acting dean of arts and sciences, Barb Karper, and Linda LeMura, then acting provost and academic vice-president, in July of 2007, to request formal support and recognition of the program.

More recently, in January and February of 2009, I have been in conversation with the two of you to continue the one started in 2007. You both have been supportive and encouraging of the program. Current financial constraints prevent you from offering this program the same kind of support that the College currently offers to the Alternative Breaks program. Nevertheless, Linda offered to contribute \$2,000 to this year's program, which includes nineteen students and three chaperons. The estimated cost of the program this year is \$1,000 per participant. In a conversation with Shawn on February 10, Shawn and I proposed the following *modus operandi*:

1. formal conversations among the Academic Division, Student Development division, and me about the future of the Dominica Service-Learning Project would commence after the appointment of a permanent provost and academic vice-president;
2. the Student Development Division has pledged to work with students in the program this year to facilitate their fund-raising efforts;
3. Shawn will investigate the possibility of transferring International House funds to the Dominica Service-Learning Project this year.

Thanks to a number of very generous gifts, much fund-raising work in the past, and careful shepherding of our funds, I am planning on starting an endowment for the program, from which future trips may draw funds.

Shawn, please let me know if the three points above are accurate. I would like this memo to facilitate further conversations on this matter in the future.

Thanks,

Donald Maldari, S.J.

cc: Susan Ames, Director of First-Year and Transition Programs