

Dear Shawn,

Linda and I had a very productive, Sicilian-style discussion today about future funding for the Dominica Service-Learning Project. It stimulated the following further reflections on my part beyond my April 8 e-mail:

- It seems to me that the Dominica Service-Learning Project should fall under the category of “service-learning.”
  - Its origin and primary thrust was and continues to be “service”
  - At an institution of higher education, academic reflection upon the service experience is most desirable
  - The College is committed to the promotion of service-learning, especially in function of its stated mission. Service-learning is an excellent opportunity to integrate the efforts of Student Development and Academic Affairs.
- The College expends funds that are dedicated to student activities that are not academic. Those funds are in your division of the College as well as in Financial Services, i.e. extra-curriculars, co-curriculars and sports. Thus, the College pays for the transportation and housing of sports teams so that they can play games away from the College. It seems to me that it ought also to pay for at least a portion of analogous costs of students who are doing volunteer service. We should put our money where our slogans are.
- The College currently pays for transportation for local service-learning projects, and contributes to half of the cost of Campus Ministry’s long-distance service projects that do not have an academic component.
- The fund-raising activities for Dominica are themselves an extension of the College’s work of promoting faith and justice, especially in the churches where we go, and they are also extraordinarily good publicity for the College.

I propose the following for discussion: that the Dominica Service-Learning Project, and any other service-learning projects that the College sponsors, be included in the distribution of funds on at least an equal basis as the other extra-curricular, co-curricular and sports activities. These funds are not to support the course that the students take, since that should be part of their tuition, but to support the service. Nor do I expect the College to fund the whole project. The Dominica program is distinguished from overseas courses since the latter do not include service. I think, however, that it would be a good idea to consider helping to fund their non-academic components too. The Dominica program has any number of advantages over the sports program, among which is its inclusion of an academic component. It would be fascinating to consider including an academic component to our sports program! 🤔 Primary responsibility for the distribution

of available funds should lie with Student Development, but it seems to me it should also include conversation with Academic Affairs.

I urge that you, Linda and I get together as soon as possible to discuss these ideas before funds are dedicated to other projects.

*Buona Pasqua a tutti!*

Don