

**Provost Advisory Council
Summary of February 26, 2009 meeting**

Bert Garza	Kay Lemon	Tony Annunziato
Pat Byrne	Ferna Phillips	Angela Amar for
Meghan Cawley	Don Hafner	Rosanna DeMarco
Cole Boskey	Susan Gennaro	Jim Morken (for Paul
Lillie Albert	Paul Lewis	Davidovits)
Prasanan Parthasarathi	John Spinard	Monique Lowd
(for Robin Fleming)	Dick Cobb-Stevens	Callista Roy
David Quigley	Jim Russell	Anita Tien
Hassan Tehranian	Ana Martinez Aleman	Kevin Bedell

1. The summary of the December 4, 2008 meeting was approved and will be forwarded to the President's Office.
2. It was agreed that the PAC will continue to meet at its current time.
3. Groups across the University are discussing ways to increase the academic profile and content at various annual gatherings. Recent changes in Commencement reflect these goals; the University Secretary continues to explore additional possibilities. In addition, the University Teaching Council has been asked for a proposal for the presentation of the teaching awards (e.g., one possibility is at Commencement) and the University Research Council is preparing a proposal for the research awards. This spring it has been proposed that the Faculty Forum will serve as a variant of Faculty Day. The President will attend and speak to the faculty.

It was suggested that the most successful faculty event is the fall University Convocation, and that the research award might be presented at that time.

Possible topics for the upcoming Faculty Forum include:

- o Course evaluations.
- o Academic freedom and dissenting/minority views. Some expressed interest in reviewing recent conversations about religious iconography at the Forum. Others felt that exploring this might be worthwhile, but not necessarily at the Forum. A suggestion was made that T. Frank Kennedy might speak to the Forum about the background and the work of the Committee on Religious Art. It was also observed that recent conversations on campus about religious iconography in the classrooms would be enhanced by the provision of information about the meaning of the icons. A number of Council members commented that communication between the administration and faculty did not function well in the matter of installing religious art in the classrooms.
- o The University decision-making process: its execution, and perceptions of how it is executed. It was further suggested that a conversation about steps that might be taken to communicate sensitive decisions throughout

