To: All UMM Staff
From: John T. Butler, S.J.
Date: November 8, 2013
Re: UMM System Project

Dear Colleagues,

As many of you know, a very important technology initiative is under way in our division. The principal goal for this initiative is to provide a user friendly tool that will facilitate data collection for the varied programs within our division, while providing much needed data sharing across our different departments.

In collaboration with Mike Bourque, Vice President of Information Technology Services, I have created a project group composed of members of our division along with members from ITS. This team has been entrusted with ensuring that the goals of this initiative are brought to fruition. I have asked Lisa Hastings, Fran Piscatelli, and Ray Rivera to work with Seth McKibben and John McLaughlin from ITS on this project. Many of you have already been collaborating with them, and I expect that many more will take part of this effort as it moves forward.

In an attempt to provide a broad perspective of this initiative, please know that at this moment the project has two equally important components. The first component is what is being referred to as the Historical Data Collection and Review. A review of the last three to four years of programming data is under way to define the nature of the information generated from across the division. This review will also facilitate a clear and strong definition of how our programs and events have developed during that time span.

The second component, and perhaps the one of greater interest to most of you, will include the development of a divisional system for the sharing of participant data. This component will also provide a processing and tracking mechanism to those areas in need of them. This tool will help us address how we collect the necessary program and event data and how this data is used to enhance our programming and solidify our work in support for our mission.

The Historical Data Collection and Review is our most immediate priority. A preliminary review of our historical data has revealed the diversity in format and meaning of the programmatic information that has been maintained. The project group is initially working to standardize the data so that it can be used effectively on a new shared environment. This effort will be very helpful as the second component of the project gets under way. With this in mind, I ask you to fully engage in this effort when approached by the project group to ensure that your valuable input becomes part of the final product.

A comprehensive view of the project time table will be shared soon, and project updates will be made available periodically. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns regarding this initiative, please feel free to contact Ray Rivera at riverar@bc.edu.

Thank you for the great work you already do and for your help with this initiative.

Sincerely,

John T. Butler, S.J.
Vice President for University Mission and Ministry