February 3, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

I am happy to announce that Fr. Leahy has appointed a Core Foundations Task Force to continue the important work begun by the Core Renewal team last year. As you know, a proposal for a renewed Core was developed last spring, through the efforts of many of our colleagues. Core team leaders David Quigley, Andy Boynton, and Mary Crane have met with the President and others during the summer and fall to gain the approval necessary to move forward and begin to develop pilot courses in the fall of 2015.

This Task Force will be chaired by Gregory Kalscheur, S. J., Senior Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and will include:

Julian Bourg (History)
Andy Boynton (Dean, Carroll School of Management)
Jack Butler, S.J. (Vice President, University Mission and Ministry)
Catherine Cornille (Theology)
Mary Crane (English and Director of the Institute for the Liberal Arts)
Solomon Friedberg (Mathematics)
Barbara Jones (Vice President, Student Affairs)
Arthur Madigan (Philosophy and Chair of the University Core Development Comm.)
Robert Maryks (Jesuit Institute)
David Quigley (Dean, College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences)
Cathy Read (Nursing)
Juliet Schor (Sociology)

In addition, the Task Force will consult with other colleagues as they undertake the attached charge from the President.

We will be holding a Town Hall meeting on Tuesday February 18 at 4:30 pm in the Heights Room of the Corcoran Lower Campus Dining Facility to answer questions about this next phase of the Core Renewal process and the work of the Task Force, with a reception to follow. We are excited about this next phase of our Core Renewal and we look forward to seeing you at the Town Hall.

Sincerely,

Joseph Quinn
Interim Provost
Charge to the Core Foundations Task Force

1. Review and build on the strengths of the 1991 Core document, especially regarding the history and philosophy of Jesuit education, while drawing from and refining as appropriate the work of the Core Renewal vision document developed in 2012-2013;

2. Explore relevant Jesuit sources and insure that the Core’s vision and its principles, policies and procedures are rooted in Jesuit history, pedagogy, and spirituality;

3. Acknowledge the university’s commitment to fostering the rigorous intellectual development and the religious, ethical and personal development of its undergraduate students by incorporating more fully the concept of student formation as an essential characteristic of the Core as a whole and of individual Core courses;

4. Describe the special role of faculty who are committed to teaching in the Core;

5. Describe the contribution of the Core to the goals of the undergraduate experience at Boston College not only in relation to academic majors, minors, and electives, but also in regard to campus life and the mission of Boston College;

6. Acknowledge major developments in higher education since 1991, including a shift from focusing on Core content to defining the outcomes of the total Core experience and individual Core courses, as well as the recognition of the importance of student and faculty engagement and the effectiveness of inquiry-based pedagogy;

7. Consult with leading experts, at Boston College and elsewhere, on Jesuit education and emerging developments in contemporary teaching and learning;

8. Describe the special characteristics of Core courses compared to major and elective courses;

9. Articulate the Core’s vision so that it will be recognized as derived from and consistent with the Jesuit educational tradition and as animating a dynamic and energizing Core experience for the 21st century; and

10. Complete this task by April 15, 2014.