1.2 Institutional Structure

1.2.1 The College of Saint Benedict Organization and Institutional Structure

The College of Saint Benedict was founded in 1913 by the Sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict, Saint Joseph, Minnesota, and operates under a charter granted in 1887. From the time the college was founded until 1961, the college was part of the religious community corporation. In 1961, the college was separately incorporated as a charitable, nonprofit corporation. The Articles of Incorporation provide for the college to be governed by corporate members and a Board of Trustees. No distinct functions were stated for the corporate members, however, since the incorporators chose to have members of the Board of Trustees also serve as the corporate members.

In October 1976, the Articles were amended to provide that the corporate members be distinct from the Board members, with separate functions. The corporate membership consists of the five officers of the religious community corporation, the sponsoring body. The Board of Trustees is composed of not fewer than 21 members, some of whom are members of the Sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict, Saint Joseph, Minnesota. The College of Saint Benedict functions under the bylaws last amended in 2003.
1.2.2 Saint John’s University Corporate and Institutional Structure

Conducted by the Benedictine monks of Saint John’s Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, Saint John’s University comprises a College of Arts and Sciences and a School of Theology-Seminary. On March 6, 1857, the Benedictine monks, who had settled in the Territory of Minnesota the previous year, secured from the Territorial Legislature a charter incorporating their small community as the “Order of Saint Benedict” . . . “for scientific, educational and ecclesiastical purposes” and authorizing them “to establish and erect an institution, or seminary, in Stearns County . . . to be known by the name and style of Saint John’s Seminary.” Though this was its legal title, the school was known from its first years as Saint John’s College. On March 5, 1869, Saint John’s was authorized to confer academic degrees, and 14 years later, on February 17, 1883, the legal title was changed to Saint John’s University. The text of the charter, or Articles of Incorporation, and its amendments are included in the Governance Documents of the university.

The “Order of Saint Benedict, Collegeville, Minnesota,” includes the religious superiors and members of Saint John’s Abbey as the successors of the original incorporators. This corporation functions under bylaws last adopted in 2001. Intended for the governance of the religious community, the bylaws of the corporation specifically include the Code of Canon Law (1983) and the Rule of Saint Benedict (sixth century) with its formally approved modifications.

The Order of Saint Benedict, the corporation, has a board of directors, known as the Council of Seniors, and, as its officers, a president, who is the abbot of Saint John’s Abbey, and a treasurer (procurator) and secretary, both appointed by the president.

In October 2001 the board of directors of this corporation approved revised statutes delineating the scope of activities proper to its university division (Article I). In Articles II-III these statutes provide that the university shall operate under the guidance and control of the Board of Regents.