

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH UPDATE

Dear College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University Communities,

In early 2019, the boards of CSB and SJU formed a Joint Strategic Visioning Committee (JSVC) to evaluate how to best position our institutions for success in a changing higher education landscape. Their extensive research verified that we have much to be proud of and many strengths on which to build.

Their work also showed that there are significant areas of our governance structure that can be improved in order to be nimble and competitive in today's higher education marketplace. Consequently, the JSVC proposed a "strongly integrated single-leadership model" for our two institutions.

Today we're excited to announce tangible steps toward one of the highest-profile and most fundamentally significant elements of that model: the search for a single president for CSB and SJU.

Academic Search has been selected to lead this important search. This is a firm with a long history of working with both CSB and SJU on multiple presidential searches. They have been operating in the space of executive search for over 44 years and have completed more than 2,000 executive searches.

We have finalized the composition of the presidential search committee made up of 20 representatives from throughout our community:

- S. Michaela Hedican, OSB – CSB Corporate Member
- Fr. Dan Ward, OSB – SJU Corporate Member
- Dr. Claire Haeg and Dr. Parker Wheatley – CSB/SJU faculty members
- Dr. Richard Ice – Provost, CSB/SJU
- Malik Stewart – Director of Multicultural Student Services, CSB/SJU
- Jen Kocourek '92 – President, CSB Alumnae Board
- Rick Speckmann '72 – President, SJU Alumni Board
- Terry Dolan, Corie Barry '97, LeAnne Stewart '87, Lynn Myhran '89, and Jona Van Deun '92 – CSB Trustees
- Bennett Morgan '85, Dan McKeown '85, Brian McGrane '93, Dan Whalen '70, Michele Martin – SJU Trustees
- Crystal Diaz '22 – CSB student
- Connor Kockler '22 – SJU student

Search committee co-chairs will be Terry Dolan and Bennett Morgan. A CSB/SJU Search Advocate will also be appointed to assist the search committee.

The pre-search

It's important to note that this structural change, a appointment of a single president for CSB/SJU, is awaiting approval from our accrediting organization, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). We anticipate that approval coming in November. At that point we will begin the actual public search for candidates.

Prior to HLC approval though, there is still much internal work that can be done. Our consultants from Academic Search will be joining us here on the campuses the week of September 20-24 to conduct an extensive pre-search visit.

The search consultants will meet with a wide range of campus constituents in one-on-one, small-group and large-group sessions (some live and some via Zoom). There will be multiple opportunities for the campus communities to provide their input on the nature of this new role and the skills, qualifications and experiences sought in the new president. Academic Search will also be providing an online survey that will be sent to the campus communities as well as alumnae/i and friends of the institutions to allow for a wide range of input into the search process.

Tentative Timeline*	
Date	Activity
Week of Sept. 20, 2021	Pre-search visit by consultants to meet with campus communities
Late Sept. / Mid-Oct.	Search committee and consultants finalize search profile
September 13 and 14	HLC visit
November	Anticipated approval for new governance model
Late Fall	Recruitment of a strong, inclusive candidate pool
January 2022	Search committee selects shortlisted candidates for initial interviews
Late January	Search committee and consultants interview semi-finalist candidates
Mid-February	Finalist candidates are interviewed
Late February	Search committee submits report on finalist candidate to the Board of Trustees
March	Boards of Trustees select candidate of choice
Mid-March	Monastery/Abbey approve the candidate of choice
Late-March	Contract is negotiated and finalized
July 1, 2022	New president assumes office
*The search timeline may be adjusted based on the timing of the HLC decision.	

Watch for more details

In early September we will be launching a website for the presidential search. Initially the site will be available only to members of the internal community during the pre-search period – until we receive HLC approval. Once we receive that approval, the site will become available to external audiences.

The site will cover information including:

- Search committee composition
- Draft search timeline
- Pre-search visit schedule
- Link to survey from Academic Search
- Information about Academic Search
- Regular updates from search committee co-chairs Terry Dolan and Bennett Morgan '85.

We appreciate the passionate commitment that you hold for these institutions, for their histories, for their missions and for the students they serve. And we look forward to your input and engagement as we continue to navigate this exciting road toward stronger integration.

Respectfully,

Barb Brandes
 Chair
 CSB Board of Trustees

Dan McKeown '85
 Chair
 SJU Board of Trustees