

President's statement

In May 2007, the *Faculty Handbook* became the official document of policies and procedures that the faculty and administration of St. Mary's College of Maryland operate under by mutual agreement. In an effort to streamline and improve the College by-laws, the Board of Trustees voted to separate the College by-laws from the faculty by-laws on May 11, 2007. Their purpose was to let all by-laws, policies and procedures pertaining to the faculty exist in a faculty handbook.

The previous by-laws stated the purpose of the *Faculty Handbook* as:

For the information of the faculty members, and in order to set forth the role of its faculty members in the governance of the College, the College shall publish a handbook setting forth in detail the policies, regulations, and procedures of the College.

The Handbook shall be kept current and shall include, but not be limited to, such items as: a listing of the chief administrative officers and their duties, personnel policies, faculty committees and their responsibilities, classroom procedures, College services, student programs and regulations, academic advising procedures and related subjects. The material in the Handbook shall be subject to change and revision as conditions change and circumstances dictate. No policies thus stated shall be in contradiction to the Board policies and procedures.

This handbook will serve as a resource for faculty members and will expand on its original purpose to include information pertinent to a faculty member's life at the College. The *Faculty Handbook* will only be published on the web where it can be continuously updated and improved. My thanks to all who have worked to shape and improve the policies by which we mutually agree to live.

Jane Margaret O'Brien, president
St. Mary's College of Maryland