Members Present: Co-Chairs Alicia Tait and Alfred Martin; Abbot Austin Murphy, Maria de la Camera, Christine Fletcher, Patrick Flynn, Joan Hopkins, Rita George-Tvtkovic, and Fr. David Turner.

Opening Prayer: The meeting opened with prayer led by Co-Chair Alicia Tait. The meeting was held in Kindlon 421, (Library fourth floor).

Review of the “Opening Day” Program: While it will take some time to do an analysis of the evaluation sheets provided for the participants, the general impression was that the day was well structured and gave a chance to all participants to address questions Relative to the presentations made by Father John Haughey, S.J., and Dr. Gary Bouchard.

Father John Haughey, S.J., presented the first talk, “How Catholics and non-Catholics collaborate in the mission of the Catholic University

Dr. Gary Bouchard presented the second talk, The Uncommon Common conversation of a Benedictine community.

In addition to the analysis of the evaluation forms, a summary will be made of the points made by the discussion groups which were written on the large paper pads.

The discussion indicated a general agreement that the proposed tasks for the day were achieved. “Areas of concern” seemed

Future “Conversatio” programs:
All sessions meet on Fridays from 3 – 4:30 PM. Location TBA

The mission and vision of Benedictine University reflect our Catholic and Benedictine traditions and provide the University community with a sense of continuity with the past and a direction for the future. In Ex Corde Ecclesiae, the Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities, Pope John Paul II identifies four characteristics that must distinguish every Catholic university as Catholic. These characteristics will be discussed during the following sessions.

September 9: Ex Corde Ecclesiae overview. Why are we bound by this document? Ralph Meeker

October 7: Fidelity of the Christian message as it comes to us through the Church Abbot Austin Murphy, OSB (confirmed). Characteristic No. 3.

November 11: A continuing reflection in light of the Catholic faith upon the growing treasury of human knowledge, to which it seeks to contribute by its own research. Martin Tracey (proposed). Characteristic No. 2.
February 10: Christian inspiration, not only of individuals, but of the university community as such. Characteristic No. 1
Fr. David Turner, OSB (confirmed)

March 9: An institutional commitment to the service of the people of God and of the human family and of their pilgrimage to the transcendent goal which gives meaning to life
Jane Boumgarden, Jean Marie Kauth, (both confirmed) Alandra Weller Clarke (proposed).
Characteristic No. 4

April 13: Recap, overview, and continued discussion of the distinguishing characteristics of Catholic universities.

Invitation to Bishop R. Daniel Conlon: Suggestion was made that we could invite our Diocesan Bishop to One of the “Conversatio” programs. A suggestion was made that we invite him to the program of either March 9 or April 13

Various discussion topics raised: (1) Freedom of an institution to achieve its own mission, (2) The matter of “common good”—individual vs. society, (3) the “Springfield case” We may not discuss this as the matter is in litigation.

Future meetings: September 28, October 26, November 30, January 25, February 29, March 28, and April 25.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Fr. David Turner, O.S.B.
Assistant to the Provost for Institutional Mission
and Secretary to the C.M.I.