

Ensuring Houghton's Future
November 2009

This past May, the administration of the college appointed a task force to review all college operations and make recommendations that would enhance the alignment of resources and programs to Houghton's core mission—delivering an undergraduate Christian liberal arts education that powerfully *Transforms* students spiritually, intellectually and interpersonally, and that readily *Translates* into the vocational, cultural, and global realities of the 21st century. These recommendations were endorsed by the Board of Trustees at their October 2009 meeting.

Houghton's goal is to be in the small niche of high quality Christian liberal arts colleges that provide an option within higher education for those students who want a college that is both deeply Christian and rigorously academic.

We must maintain Houghton's high quality and potential for flourishing over time, even while creating fiscal flexibility. The recommendations covered tuition/room/board/fees, size of student body, student/faculty ratio, marketing efforts, student retention, non-traditional programs (adult degree and on line), summer conference program, campus auxiliary operations, fund raising, student off campus program opportunities, honors programs, academic organizational structure, athletics, employee benefits, and support staff.

It is believed that these recommendations will strengthen our ability to offer a distinctive Christian liberal arts education and to ensure a level of excellence expected by our faculty, students, parents, alumni and friends. Houghton distinctives include:

- 126 year history of high quality academics—one of the few Christian colleges associated with the national liberal arts tradition
- tradition of distinguished alumni throughout the world in positions of responsibility in the church, in the professions, in the business world and in service
- size that permits faculty-student mentoring and research collaboration as well as ready access to multiple student affinity groups
- exceptional preparation for graduate and professional education
- diversity and excellence of the arts in worship and everyday life
- global engagement
- active engagement in social service both in urban and rural settings
- natural setting
- intergenerational mentoring community

- exceptional preparation in certifying, documenting and translating one's education for post-graduate effectiveness

We believe that the implementation of the recommendations will further strengthen our position as a Christian liberal arts college of choice. If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the President's Office at 585.567.9310. Join with us as we prepare Houghton College for the next 125 years.