

## **Charting the Way Forward for the Certificate Discussion**

**Step One:** At the next Senate meeting (10/17), we will refine the draft of policies (criteria for review) governing postbaccalaureate certificates. I will work on a new draft based on some comments today, and you are welcome to send me any further suggestions.

**Step Two:** At the October faculty meeting (10/18), we will introduce Bruce Wydick's proposal for a certificate program for WSF. We will stress the Senate's support for this as a pilot innovation, created in large measure to expand our range of learners in the Bay Area and to be good stewards of the opportunities created for us by our investment in the Clunie House. We anticipate that this program will appeal to our alums in the area and also help WSF establish a larger role serving and bringing together the Christian community in the region.

At the same meeting, we will share our draft of the policies governing post-baccalaureate certificates. Recognizing that the WSF proposal breaks some new ground, the Senate has developed the policies both as inspiration and as quality control. As we venture into this new terrain, the Senate has deemed it wise to have general policies for post-baccalaureate certificates, drawing on some of the best practices from other institutions and ensuring that our programs maintain the quality and the mission-congruence to bear a Westmont brand. Equally importantly, we see the policies as an encouragement and a template for other departments wishing to develop similar certificates.

**Step Three:** We will arrange, with Faculty Council, for there to be time at a Faculty Forum within the next month for a discussion of the WSF proposal and policy statement presented at the October faculty meeting. Part of this effort, I think, should be an attempt to envision possibilities for certificates in other fields.

**Step Four:** We will present both the WSF proposal and policy statements as separate motions. That way we could envision a possibility that WSF could be approved as a pilot venture even if there needed to be more time to refine and develop the policies.