

April 9, 2013

Professor Elizabeth R. Schiltz

Chair of St. Paul Seminary and School of Divinity Committee on Formation & Program Development

Via email

Dear Professor Schiltz:

We are writing in response to your email of March 13, 2013 requesting that we provide a proposal to Dean Christopher Thompson and your committee for extension of the present relationship between the Siena Symposium for Women, Family, and Culture (“Siena”) and the Saint Paul Seminary and School of Divinity (“SPSSOD”) for one year to allow full discussion of possible fundraising assistance, administrative support, and development of programming goals.

For the past two and a half years, Siena’s website has been hosted by SPSSOD and provided partial funding for particular events hosted by the Siena Symposium. On December 12, 2012 we were advised that it would not be possible to expand the relationship with SPSSOD beyond this.

As we noted in our March 8, 2013 letter to you, Siena has enjoyed growing success in our outreach to the academic community through various conferences and our successful annual presentations of the Siena Symposium Humanitarian Leadership Award. Our efforts in the Archdiocese to promote a genuine understanding of Catholic teaching on the nature of men and women, families, and culture also have been warmly received.

Due to this success, we hope to develop more regularized programing, which in turns requires significant fundraising and program administration. In order to succeed in these efforts, Siena needs to be a sponsored program by an established academic unit of the University.

As a sponsored program, we hope to receive: 1) assistance in fundraising by inclusion as possible donor options for those interested in supporting SPSSOD, 2) consideration for discretionary funding of specific projects, 3) financial oversight for funds generated through fundraising efforts, including but not limited to the establishment of index numbers for general contributions and grants, and 4) administrative support for Siena programs including annual workshops and conferences, and the Siena Humanitarian Leadership Award ceremony. At a minimum, we need staff support in updating and expanding our website on a regular basis, and event-specific support for planning, publicizing, and running events. Administrative support could be provided by student workers/research assistants, or as part of the duties of full-time staff within the sponsoring unit.

Siena also hopes to expand its educational efforts to include undergraduate and graduate course offerings that emphasize the various aspects of Siena’s mission: complementarity, the vocation of women, the family, the promotion of a culture of life and the civilization of love.

These courses could ultimately culminate in a minor tentatively titled “Catholic Thought, Sexual Identity, and Vocations.” All course offerings would be developed in conjunction with and subject to the approval of the leadership of SPSSOD, as well as approval by the University.

We appreciate that this expansion may require a more careful structuring of the role and responsibilities of Siena leadership to ensure smooth operation within SPSSOD. The details of that structure would have to be developed in accordance with University requirements and the existing structure of SPSSOD.

In addition to our discussions with SPSSOD, we are in preliminary discussions with Dr. Don Briel regarding the possibility of the Center for Catholic Studies serving as Siena’s academic home.

We would appreciate any guidance that your committee could provide as we enter into this new stage of development of Siena Symposium, and welcome further conversation about the willingness and ability of SPSSOD to serve as Siena’s academic home.

With great gratitude for all past, present and future support,



R. Mary Hayden Lemmons, Ph.D. Co-director of the Siena Symposium Associate Professor of Philosophy University of St. Thomas



Teresa S. Collett, J.D.

Co-director of the Siena Symposium Professor of Law

University of St. Thomas

CC: Dr. Christopher Thompson, Academic Dean of SPSSOD