Needs & Suggestions

The most consistently expressed needs:
- Muslim campus minister and/or imam on campus
- Muslim prayer space/interfaith prayer room on campus
- Friday prayer services on campus
- Halal food options on campus
- Cooperation among schools to link/expand our study abroad programs to Muslim-majority countries
- Better library resources for Islamic studies (including Arabic sources), and cooperation between schools to share library resources if possible
- Regularly held conferences/meetings to continue the conversations of the USF conference. These could be national or regional, and they could be focused on more direct themes or groups, such as: students, campus ministers, student affairs staff, Islamic Studies faculty, interreligious dialogue, pedagogy (e.g., challenges of teaching Islam or engaging religious difference in the classroom), comparative theology, constructive Christian-Muslim theology, scriptural reasoning, Islamic law, Sufism, kalam, Islam in S. Asia/Africa/Americas
- An email listserv to link people working on/with Islam/Muslims at Jesuit schools

Other commonly expressed needs:
- For those schools without them, a full-time Islamic studies faculty person and a full-time faculty person in Arabic language
- The development of Islamic Studies programs and Middle East Studies programs, especially fuller Arabic programs
- Courses in other Islamicate languages such as Farsi, Urdu, and Turkish
- Sensitivity training programs for staff working with Muslim students; more staff to support Muslim students (both domestic and international students)
- Connections between Muslims on campus and local Muslim communities, especially imams
- A website/database for sharing contacts as well as “best practices” at Jesuit schools for engaging Islam/Muslims
- Recruitment of more Muslim students

More ideas:
- Creating/sharing Islamic studies post-docs, guest lectureships, visiting professorships, and visiting research opportunities at U.S. Jesuit institutions and those abroad; also sharing Fulbright scholars
- Shared online courses or summer seminars in Islamic Studies for credit
- Professional associations for peer groups across our schools, such as Islamic Studies faculty
- Taskforce to continue the work of the USF conference, perhaps including a steering committee of Islamic Studies faculty
- A newsletter sharing developments/events at all the Jesuit schools
- Cooperation to create interreligious travel opportunities (perhaps religious experience trips or pilgrimages). Such trips could draw on local opportunities here in the U.S, but if organized abroad, they could draw on relationships to Jesuit schools abroad.
- Cooperation to create shared service opportunities/service learning courses engaging Muslim communities. (For example, much of Jesuit Refugee Services involves Muslims; a group of schools could partner on something.)
- Pooling monetary resources to fund inter-college cooperation on these needs/ideas and/or rotating conferences
- As part of the process of developing a network among Islamic Studies people across schools, issue invitations to participate in each other’s programming
- Resident ministry programs aimed at serving Muslim student population, and more living options to better accommodate their needs
- Support for Muslim holidays
- More courses in: comparative religion, dialogue/trialogue (Islam, Judaism, Christianity), Christian-Muslim relations
- More interdisciplinary work/faculty in Islamic Studies
- Supporting the development of student interfaith councils and stronger MSAs on each campus; support the development of an AJCU MSA or some other forum for intercollegiate student dialogue/cooperation
- Advisory board at each school on Islam and Muslims
- Support the appointment of Muslims to boards of trustees; create database of potential candidates
- Solicit greater involvement/input from Muslim alumni
- Encourage the publications of *Conversations* and *Integritas* to include more interfaith features
- Seek support for initiatives from the U.S. Jesuit Conference
- Connect with JesuitNET and Jesuit Commons
- Seek support from existing leadership groups in AJCU; connect with JASPA conference in particular
- Make connections to General Congregation, Nostra Aetate, and Jubilee of Mercy
- Also use the meetings of organizations like CTSA, Society of Christian Ethics/Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics, AAR (e.g., Religion chairs, Islam faculty) to have discussions and maintain connections
- Strengthen links between different types of roles: faculty, student affairs, campus ministry, etc.
- Cooperate on developing joint MA or PhD programs
- Support development of programs on Ignatian spirituality for non-Christians
- Draw on existing links to the worldwide Jesuit network and local/overseas Islamic institutions
- Draw on larger interfaith resources beyond higher education
- Foster collaboration with/support from non-Jesuit Catholic schools
**Resources in Place**

*Several schools report that they have:*
- At least one faculty person specializing in Islamic studies, usually located in the Religion/Theology department

*A small number of schools report that they have:*
- An Islamic Studies or Middle East Studies program
- A faculty person for Arabic language
- A core curriculum that allows Islamic Studies courses to fulfill requirements (e.g., Theology core)
- Courses on Islam in departments other than Religion/Theology, such as Art History, Law, or Political Science

*Individual schools report that they have:*
- Endowed chair in Islamic Studies
- Endowed chair in Interfaith Studies
- Islamic World Studies minor
- Arabic Language and Culture minor
- Interreligious/Interfaith Studies minor
- Arabic & Islamic Studies department
- Graduate-level Islamic Studies
- Director of Islamic Studies (both an administrative and teaching position)
- Islamic Studies librarian specialist
- Director of Religious Diversity
- Endowments for internationalizing the curriculum
- International education week events
- Productive relationships with local Muslim communities
- Support for halal diet and Muslim holidays
- Strong study abroad/immersion programs in Muslim-majority countries
- Plans to create a Comparative Religion program
**Challenges**

*Commonly cited challenges related to engaging Islam/Muslims:*
- Not enough faculty/courses in Islamic studies (occasionally, none at all)
- Pressures faced by the lone scholar of Islam on a campus, including the responsibility to teach the entire breadth of Islam
- Inability to offer non-intro-level Islamic Studies courses
- Lack of graduate-level Islamic Studies
- Not enough funding toward Islam-related initiatives
- Difficulty of convincing schools to increase resources when Muslim student population is relatively low
- Burden of representation and tokenism experienced by Muslim students in interfaith programming

*A few schools report:*
- Islamic Studies is MidEast-centric
- Humanities are Euro-American-centric
Website Ideas

Ideas for the content of a possible website linking Jesuit schools on issues of Islam/Muslims:

- A “who’s who” database listing the profiles of staff and faculty at our schools, which could be a useful resource for locating speakers
- Info about study abroad programs in Muslim-majority countries at our schools
- Announcements for conferences, events, and programs at our schools
- Announcements for guest lectureships/professorships and grants offered by our schools
- Ideas for interfaith programming and “best practices” of campus ministries (perhaps including prayers, invocations, facilitation materials, and retreats)
- Access to shared library resources for Islamic Studies
- A list of introductory books, articles, and films on Islam from various perspectives, including titles that could be used at faculty/staff and student orientations
- Podcasts, lecture recordings, recitations
- Videos profiles of each school
- Discussion boards
- Blogs

Concerns:
- Should also include student-centered content and resources
- Requires regular updating of info from each school
- What are the costs of supporting a website?
- Should avoid reinventing the wheel, and instead use existing platforms to share this info and make connections