



Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS & SUMMARY

Vol. 22, No. 3 February 22, 2016

President's Report

Mr. Hurley expressed the sadness experienced by the entire campus community at the untimely passing of Dr. Susan Aronica, Professor and Chair of the Biology Department. While the department and Academic Affairs develops a plan for her replacement, Dr. Sara Morris, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and former chair of Biology, will step in to help. Mr. Hurley said that Dr. Aronica's death comes just two months after the death of Dr. Linda Volonino, Professor of Information Systems. Mr. Hurley requested that the Board keep both professors and their families in their prayers.

Mr. Hurley addressed the recent article in *The Buffalo News* that suggested that Canisius had the largest gap in six-year graduation rates between black and white students among schools in our region. Mr. Hurley explained that the *News* looked at just one year of data and said that it was difficult to disentangle the complexities of race and financial need. Mr. Hurley cited the successful outcomes and graduation rates of programs like the Urban Leadership Learning Community program and HEOP.

Mr. Hurley discussed a number of administrative items that the college is working on, including the formation of a Compliance Committee to ensure compliance with all laws and regulations, and a Retirement Planning Committee that will serve in a fiduciary oversight capacity for the employee pension plan. He also said the college will be working with a consultant to develop a comprehensive policy manual that will become the central repository for all policies, handbooks, and guidelines at the college and provide us with a consistent approach for the development of new policies and updating existing ones. Mr. Hurley gave an update on the Hamlin Park Housing Initiative. Five homes have been completed and sold to date. One more home is currently for sale right now, and three under are contract with Belmont Housing. The program includes a 15-year restrictive covenant in the deed that requires owners to also occupy the residence. This is intended to create a more stable and vital neighborhood in the areas surrounding the college.

Finally, Mr. Hurley congratulated Board member, Martin Berardi, on his induction into the DiGamma Honor Society and the numerous Canisius trustees that appeared on the *Business First of Buffalo's* "Power 250" list. Finally, Mr. Hurley said that the college is preparing for Rev. Michael Tunney's, S.J. departure and is considering ways to structure the Office of Mission and Identity to improve coordination with Campus Ministry.

Presentation on Strategic Planning

The Board received a copy of the most current draft of the strategic plan and heard a presentation from Mr. Hurley on the approach to developing the plan. He described the major goals and objectives and reviewed the key indicators that will help the college to evaluate its success in implementing the plan. He said the college's Strategic Planning Committee will continue to meet to refine the document and also host a second campus forum in April to garner broad input from the college community. There was extensive discussion by the Board and a number of suggestions for improving the draft were made. A final draft will be presented to the Board at the May meeting for its approval.

Academics Committee

Dr. Margaret McCarthy announced that Dr. Elizabeth Gill, a professor of sociology from Randolph Macon College, has been selected as the new Dean for the College of Arts & Sciences. She will arrive on campus this summer. Dr. McCarthy presented an overview of the core curriculum and gave an update on the assessment process. She also reported on the status of the college's Middle States monitoring report and the Academic Program Board activities. Dr. Sara Morris, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented the college's plans for implementing a new curriculum management system, which will streamline multiple processes across the campus. Ms. Kathleen Davis, Vice President for Enrollment Management, provided an update on the recruitment strategies and year-to-date results. Dr. Michael Noonan, Chair of the Faculty Senate, reported on collaborations between administration and faculty and praised the continued support of shared governance.

Finance & Facilities Committee

The committee reviewed and discussed the current financial statements. Marco Benedetti, Vice President for Business & Finance, reported that the college is tracking to the adjusted budget projections and will have a modest operating deficit. The committee discussed current recruiting and marketing efforts with Kathleen Davis, Vice President for Enrollment Management. She emphasized that that strategy will continue to focus on increasing the headcount and lowering the discount rate. The committee also reviewed the current endowment performance and discussed the current market fluctuations. After the meeting, the Finance & Facilities Committee hosted a lunch with faculty members. These events are part of an ongoing effort to advance shared governance and transparency among the Board, administration, and faculty.

**Audit Committee:
Approval of IRS 990
Form**

The Audit Committee reviewed the draft IRS 990 statement and noted few changes from the previous year. The 990 form was presented to the Board and the following resolution was unanimously approved:

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the IRS 990 statement as presented at this meeting.

**Institutional
Advancement
Committee**

William M. Collins, Vice President for Advancement, reported that, between bequests, payments on pledges, and outright gifts, Canisius has secured approximately \$4.6 million in cash since June 1, 2015. Mr. Collins also reported that the Canisius Fund is 82% toward goal with \$2.1 million in gifts, pledges and matching gifts. He also updated the committee on personnel transitions and announced that the director of alumni engagement position has been posted and a new events coordinator has been hired. He is also in the process of seeking a new director of corporate and foundation relations. The committee reviewed the video and brochure that were developed for the Science Hall capital campaign and discussed campaign strategy. Erin Hartnett, Director of the Canisius Fund, provided an update on the college's first "Giving Day," planned for April 27, 2016. The Board of Trustees was asked to contribute towards a giving challenge for this special initiative. Matthew Wojcik, Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communication, shared that the new "You Can" campaign was going very well for undergraduate admissions and that the message will now be tailored for the graduate school, with a more professional and sophisticated approach as evidenced by billboard and print ads he showed to the committee.

**Mission & Identity
Committee**

The committee heard from William Maher, Canisius Director of Athletics, who presented on mission across the athletic programs. Fr. Michael Tunney, S.J. updated the committee on early Spring 2016 activities in the Center for Service-Learning and the Office of Mission & Identity. The committee discussed characteristics #1-3 of the AJCU mission-evaluative document, *Some Characteristics of Jesuit Colleges and Universities: A Self-Evaluation Instrument*. The committee will continue to review this document as part of the school's mission reaffirmation process. Simultaneously, the UNE Jesuit Province is participating in the AJCU nationwide review of mission in our colleges and universities; Canisius will be reviewed within the next five years.

**Student Life
Committee**

The committee then heard an extensive report from Rich Kubiak '16, President of the Undergraduate Student Association (USA), on USA's accomplishments during the fall semester and what they had planned for the spring. He reported on the approval of funds to purchase the new griffin statue and the possible development of a community garden and endowed scholarship. Patricia Creahan, Director of the Student Health Center gave an overview of the department and its services, and the committee discussed student health issues and concerns. The committee also heard from Brian Smith, Director of Study Abroad and International Partnerships regarding Canisius' existing study abroad and international exchange programs. Dr. Terri Mangione, Vice President for Student Affairs, described plans to develop a landing page on the updated college website to consolidate all international education opportunities, including traditional study abroad, exchange programs, as well as short-term international trips connected to existing academic courses and Campus Ministry service-immersion trips, in one location.

**Committee on
Trusteeship**

The committee developed a shortlist of prospective new trustees and will present a slate of candidates at the next Board meeting for approval. The committee also discussed the Canisius Giving Day event and endorsed a proposal to have the Board of Trustees establish a challenge gift for this initiative.

Upcoming Dates

Board Meeting: May 9, 2016

Regents Ball: May 7, 2016

Graduate Commencement: May 18, 2016

Undergraduate Commencement: May 21, 2016

Erica C. Sammarco, Secretary