



**Vol. 23, No. 1 October 17, 2016**

### **President's Report**

President John J. Hurley reported that the Middle States monitoring report, due September 1, was submitted, and he recognized Dr. Peg McCarthy, Vice President for Academic Affairs, for her work in preparing the report. He said a response is expected by the end of the year. He announced that the college is in the midst of the Institution-wide Policy Manual Project with the help of the consulting firm, Stevens Strategy. He reminded the board that the firm was engaged to help review, update, and organize all of the college's policies to ensure that Canisius is in compliance with applicable laws, regulations and accreditation standards, is exercising appropriate risk management, and follows best practices. He noted that the Committee on Trusteeship will undertake the review of the board bylaws and board related policies. The Faculty Handbook is also under review as part of this process. Mr. Hurley updated the Board on his discussions with students about issues of diversity on campus. An approach to addressing these issues is in development, and Mr. Hurley intends to also engage current and former trustees on some of these questions and strategies. Mr. Hurley reported that the college is still in the early phases of designing the New Buffalo Institute. A thought piece has been developed and circulated to the Strategic Planning Committee. A subcommittee has been formed to help facilitate this initiative, and other internal and external stakeholders will be welcomed into the conversation. Mr. Hurley announced that the college received notice that its federal loan default rate is at an all-time low of 3.4%. This is a positive indicator that the vast majority of our students are able to find employment after graduation and manage their student debt. He reported on developments of the international recruitment strategy and new partnerships designed to open new international markets for the college. Finally, Mr. Hurley announced two significant grant awards. Canisius received a \$1M National Science Foundation grant to support STEM education. The award includes \$700,000 for scholarships. Canisius has also been renewed for the federal Talent Search Program.

### **Special Report from Fr. James Miracky, S.J.**

Assistant Provincial for Higher Education for the Maryland and USA Northeast Provinces, Fr. James Miracky, S.J., attended the Board of Trustees meetings during his annual visitation to campus last week. Each year, Fr. Miracky chooses a focus drawn from AJCU's "Some Characteristics of Jesuit Colleges and Universities" document that allows him to get a deeper appreciation of how the Jesuit, Catholic mission is embodied at the college. This year he focused on Characteristic #2 The Academic Life, and #6 Jesuit Presence. He shared his general impressions of the college and reported on the changing demographics within the province. He said with an aging population of Jesuits and a precipitous decline in the number of men available for the work of the provinces, it is increasingly vital that lay men and women take up responsibility for ensuring that the Catholic, Jesuit characteristics of our institutions endures, especially as the next generation of lay presidents may be less familiar with the Jesuit mission of the institutions. He said that colleges and universities will undergo a self-assessment and peer review by a visiting team on a regular cycle. Reports will be developed and sent to Rome to document and affirm that Jesuit colleges and universities are maintaining the Catholic, Jesuit identity. Canisius is expected to have its review in 2018-19.

### **Report on Strategic Planning**

Mr. Hurley gave a presentation on the status of strategic planning. *Canisius 150: Excellence, Jesuit, Leadership* was approved by the Board on May 9, 2016, and since then, the Senior Leadership Team has been focused on operationalizing the strategic plan for the 2016-17 year, attending to additional planning needs, such as the development of a facilities master plan, and developing targets and metrics that will enable key stakeholders to measure progress on each of the plan's goals and objectives.

### **Academics Committee**

Dr. Margaret McCarthy provided the committee with an overview of the recently submitted Middle States Monitoring report, current market research initiatives, and the ongoing policy manual project. She also discussed academic priorities including a review of the Academic Program Board's annual report, as well as a discussion surrounding the operationalizing of the institutional strategic plan. Dr. Karl Kozlowski, Chair of the Faculty Senate, reported on collaborations between administration and faculty and areas of concern for the faculty.

### **Audit Committee**

Mr. Marco Benedetti, Vice President for Business & Finance, and Mr. Michael Ervolina, chair, reported that the college's annual audit from Deloitte & Touche was completed and that the college received an unqualified opinion on its audit. Highlights from the audit and the management letter were presented by Mr. Benedetti and the Board unanimously passed a resolution to accept the 2016 audited financial statements.

**Committee on Trusteeship**

Dr. Richard N. Gilbert, Jr., committee chair, announced that Mr. Edward B. Carey's term as Board Chair will conclude on June 30, 2017. He outlined the process for selecting the chair and said that Trustees are invited to submit nominations to either himself or President Hurley by November 30.

**Enrollment Management Committee**

At the first meeting of the new Enrollment Management Committee, Nancy W. Ware, committee chair, presented the committee charge and led a discussion on goals for the year. The committee heard a report from Kathleen Davis, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Justin Rogers, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, on undergraduate recruitment results for 2016 and plans for this year. They also discussed the enrollment challenges precipitated by the ongoing demographic shifts in New York State. The committee reviewed and discussed the developing international student recruitment, including new partnerships with the University of Dayton China Institute and Global Student Recruitment Advisors. Mr. William Collins, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, gave a presentation on branding and marketing initiatives developed to support the recruitment strategy.

**Finance & Facilities Committee**

Audited financial statements were reviewed and accepted by the committee. The committee reviewed the 2016 fiscal year end results, which reflected a \$1.2 million deficit. Results were \$.5 million better than the budgeted projection. Fall 2016 enrollment figures were reviewed and discussed. The freshman class was approximately 40 students short of budget and transfers were slightly ahead. Mr. Benedetti said that tuition discounting continues to pressure the net tuition revenue line and that the college must continue to manage resources in alignment with the smaller revenue base. The committee also heard a report on the performance of the endowment.

**Mission & Identity Committee**

Dr. Teresa Amabile, committee chair, engaged the committee in a discussion of hopes and aspirations for the year, including plans to conduct joint sessions with other Board committees to elevate and expand the expression of the college's mission throughout the operation. Fr. Miracky attended the meeting and discussed the focus of his visit. He offered a number of positive impressions about the ways in which Jesuit mission and identity is expressed on campus, through curricular and co-curricular programs, student life, campus ministry, and the alumni. The committee discussed the importance of infusing mission in the academic life of the campus. Fr. Miracky and members of the committee also shared ideas for best practices in Jesuit formation for lay faculty, staff, and board members.

**Institutional Advancement Committee**

Mr. William M. Collins, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, provided a staffing update and reported on the the division's priorities for the year. He said they will focus on raising money for Science Hall, begin the preparation and readiness phase of an endowment campaign that would play off the college's sesquicentennial in 2019-2020, and enhance donor and alumni engagement. On the marketing side, the college will continue to develop the *You Can* branding campaign and support enrollment efforts. Mr. Collins reported New Era Cap Co. CEO, Christopher Koch, will be honored as the Distinguished Citizen at the 2017 Regents Ball on May 6 at Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Ms. Dianna Civello reported on progress achieved in the planned-giving initiative. Ms. Liz Culliton Washo, new Director of Alumni Engagement, provided some early observations and an overview on the future direction of alumni engagement. Ms. Erin Hartnett reported final results of the 2015-16 Canisius Fund and said that \$2.8 million was raised from 5,742 donors, an increase of nearly 700 more donors than 2015.

**Investment Advisory Committee**

Mr. Wortham reported that the endowment reached a high of \$115.6 million as of September 30, 2016. The endowment benefited from a \$7 million transfer from operations back into the unrestricted endowment in June.

**Student Life Committee**

Elias Ayoub '17, President of the Undergraduate Student Association, reported on the USA activity to date and their goals for the 2016-17, which prioritize sustainability and diversity matters. Dr. Jennifer Lodi-Smith, substituting for Dr. Lisa Morey, Chair of the Faculty-Student Liaison Committee (FSLC) of the Faculty Senate, reported on the work and accomplishments of last year's FSLC and the goals and priorities for this year. Dr. Lodi-Smith indicated that Dr. Morey expressed a desire to increase the diversity of the student participants in this committee. Ms. Eileen Niland, Director of the Canisius College Counseling Center and Ms. Charita Price, Counselor gave a presentation on the history, accomplishments, and future goals of the Student Violence Prevention Team (SVPT) at Canisius. Finally, Dr. Terri Mangione presented the Student Affairs Strategic Plan for 2016-2021. The committee reviewed and discussed the goals and objectives, as well as a timeline for completing the plan.

**Upcoming Dates****Board Meetings:**

- December 5, 2016
- February 27, 2017
- May 8, 2017

**Erica C. Sammarco, Secretary**