



Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS & SUMMARY

Vol. 24, No. 2 December 4, 2017

President's Report

President John J. Hurley reported on the Excellence Within Reach tuition reduction campaign and the early enrollment indicators. He noted that attendance at open houses and campus visits has increased, and that personal visits by students and families tend to be high yield events for enrollment. He also said that the college was working with a new direct mail provider whose goal it is to produce higher quality (i.e. more interested) applicants compared the college's previous vendor. Mr. Hurley reported that the college hosted a forum for faculty on marketing to provide faculty with an opportunity to share their ideas on ways they believe the college could better promote itself to prospective students. A follow-up forum will be held in the spring. In the area of new program development, he reported that the announcement of the Master's in Data Analytics has generated a good deal of interest and energy. The college is in the process of working with industry leaders to get feedback on the program and is in the final stage of selecting the program director. Mr. Hurley also commended interim dean of the Wehle School of Business, Dr. Richard A. Wall for his role in leading new faculty searches in the school and business school curriculum reviews.

Mr. Hurley reported to the Board on the status of negotiations with SEIU, the college's collective bargaining unit for approximately 60 maintenance workers. The college's final offer was voted down, but he remains hopeful that both sides will return to the table to reach an agreement. At this time, the college has not initiated any changes to the workers' existing contract.

Mr. Hurley provided a summary of the competing federal tax reform bills in the House and the Senate. There are number of items on the table that could be troubling for higher education and students, including the potential tax on endowments, graduate tuition waivers, and tuition benefits for employees. The House bill has also proposed elimination of student loan interest deductions and private activity bonds for institutions. Mr. Hurley said that the college's national and state advocacy organizations are monitoring the situation and continuing to lobby in the best interest of our institutions, students and families. He added that the House has also released its proposed version of the Higher Education Reauthorization Act, legislation which authorizes federal aid to colleges and universities but also regulates higher education. This version of the bill also includes a number of changes that are of concern. This will be a development to monitor in 2018.

Finally, he announced that he with Dr. Timothy Wadkins, Director for the Institute on Global Engagement, are leading an immersion experience in El Salvador and Guatemala from June 3-13, 2018 centered on religious and social justice issues. Trustees, alumni and friends of the college are invited to participate.

Academics Committee

Dr. Margaret McCarthy, Vice President for Academic Affairs, provided updates on the Wehle School of Business (WSB) Dean search, the timeline for faculty handbook revisions, and reviewed the process for faculty position requests. Dr. McCarthy discussed mission and identity initiatives underway at Boston College and discussed possible initiatives for Canisius. Dr. Rick Wall, Interim Dean of the WSB outlined opportunities for curricular revision in the WSB. Drs. Chris Lopata and Marcus L. Thomeer gave an overview of the Institute for Autism Research, including treatment programs, research initiatives, and grant funding outcomes. In addition, they described the efforts of the IMPACT Center to build a supportive culture for grant seeking. Dr. Karl Kozlowski, Chair of the Faculty Senate informed the board that the Senate has formally requested that the college reinstate the 4% retirement contribution. He reported on other concerns of faculty, including vacancies within campus ministry, faculty retention, and teaching loads. Dr. Kozlowski announced that the Senate intends to move forward with its morale survey and he and the Senate's Executive Committee will be meeting with President Hurley and Board Chair Lee Wortham to explore the possibility of creating better lines of communication.

Audit Committee Report & Resolution

The audit committee completed its review of the conflict of interest disclosures submitted by Trustees and Officers of the college. In a resolution presented by the Audit Committee, the full Board unanimously endorsed that the disclosures for 2017 have been reviewed and are being managed appropriately by the college to insure that they do not influence decisions at the college. The committee also reviewed and approved the final A-133 and NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures audit reports. The Retirement Plan Committee presented a report indicating that all current investment funds have performed well.

Enrollment Management Committee

The Enrollment Management Committee had a detailed discussion on student enrollment and retention. Julie Zulewski, Director of Graduate Admissions and Justin Rogers, Director for Undergraduate Admissions presented Spring 2018 Graduate and Transfer student enrollment data. Mr. Rogers also noted that there has been a 25% increase in campus visits by prospective students. Terri L. Mangione, Vice President for Student Affairs, Annie Dobies, Assistant Vice President & Director of the Griff Center for Academic Engagement and Kevin Smith, Assistant Vice President & Director of Student Records and Financial Services gave a presentation on student retention initiatives. The college has introduced mid-semester and summer course offerings that will provide students who have withdrawn from a course or gone “off track” with the opportunity to recover credits and improve their academic standing. Ms. Dobies also shared information on the alert systems in place to identify at-risk students early in cycle and the outreach programs designed to address their needs.

Finance & Facilities Committee

The committee reviewed current financial statements. Marco Benedetti, Vice President for Business & Finance, reported that the college is behind budget primarily due to freshman enrollment being lower than anticipated. The committee revisited the college’s restructuring plan approved in June 2017. While the college met its targets for the year, the committee discussed other potential initiatives to increase revenue, including new graduate programs. The committee is hopeful that the college will see favorable results from the Excellence Within Reach program in Fall 2018 enrollment. The value of endowment as of October 31, 2017 was \$129 million.

Mission & Identity Committee

The committee heard a report from Mr. Hurley and Dr. Sandra Estanek, Professor and Director of the Higher Education and Student Affairs Program, who has been appointed to coordinate the Mission Priority Examen review for Canisius. They reviewed the process and timeline for the conducting the self-study. The Mission Examen process has been initiated by the U.S. Provincials and Jesuit college and university presidents as a means for Boards of Trustees and the Society to assess Jesuit colleges and universities’ fidelity to mission. The committee discussed mission formation for the Board and explored possible ways to elevate mission across all committees of the Board. The members proposed dispatching mission ambassadors to committees during the February meetings. The committee also heard from Dr. Sara Morris, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, on her experience with the Ignatian Colleagues Program and on the development of the Canisius Colleagues Program.

Institutional Advancement Committee

A presentation by West Wind fundraising consultant, Ms. Maya Gasuk, and extensive discussion of the recommendations contained in the West Wind assessment of the Institutional Advancement Division comprised the meeting of the Institutional Advancement Committee. Ms. Gasuk reviewed the major recommendations of the assessment report and focused on the next steps to take involving the case for support, leadership, Board of Trustees role in philanthropy, donors and staffing and infrastructure. A similar presentation and discussion followed with the full Board of Trustees.

Student Life Committee

Amelia Greenan ’18, president of the Undergraduate Student Association (USA) gave a synopsis of USA work this semester. In particular, she discussed Enlight Nights and a series of DACA related events, including training, letter writing support, and a joint letter of support signed by all 28 Jesuit college and university student government presidents. Dr. Jonathan Lopez ’03, chair of the Faculty Student Liaison Committee (FSLC) of the Faculty Senate reported that their last committee meeting focused on student questions related to the core curriculum. Dr. Lopez also reported that the FSLC has completed its evaluations for on-line courses. Matt Mulville, Senior Associate Dean and Director of Student Life and Mark Piatkowski, Associate Director of Student Life presented on Residence Life, Campus Programming, Athletic Facilities, and Events Services, the offices that make up the department of Student Life within the division of Student Affairs. The committee discussed the reduction in residential occupancy due to the reduction in students and new initiatives that have been introduced to improve the occupancy. Dr. Terri L. Mangione, Vice President for Student Affairs facilitated a discussion of issues of free speech and freedom of expression and the tensions in these areas on college campuses.

Upcoming Dates

Board Meetings:

- February 26, 2018
- May 7, 2018

Erica C. Sammarco, Secretary