



**Vol. 24, No. 3 February 26, 2018**

### **President's Report**

President John J. Hurley announced that the Canisius Men's Basketball team is the MAAC Co-Regular Season Champion for 2017-18, and they have earned a spot in the quarterfinal round of the upcoming tournament. Men's Hockey was also applauded for their second place finish in the Atlantic Hockey Conference and second seed in the conference tournament. Mr. Hurley reported on the fall recruiting cycle and noted that it is difficult to make an apple-to-apples comparison for this year's progress against last because of the number of changes introduced. Canisius has moved to a new search vendor in hopes of attracting more serious applicants and increasing the yield rate. Canisius continues to experience the impact of the NYS Excelsior program, but the Excellence Within Reach tuition reduction campaign is a central component of the college's strategy to offset the effects. Mr. Hurley reported on recent ACCU and AJCU meetings and said that there was a clear focus on how Catholic colleges and universities will need to operate differently. The House of Representatives Education Committee approved the PROSPER Act, the House version of the Higher Education Reauthorization Act. PROSPER contains a number of changes (mostly reductions) to important financial aid programs to Canisius students. The senate is working on its own version of the Reauthorization Act and it is not clear whether Congress as a whole will take up the matter this year. Mr. Hurley congratulated the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Research Challenge team and its advisers, Mr. Steve Gattuso and Dr. Richard Wall, for their eighth consecutive first place win at the regional CFA Institute Research Challenge competition. They will move on to the national competition later this spring. Mr. Hurley announced that there are 15 faculty searches underway and a number of top choices have accepted offers to come to Canisius. The college's focus on academic quality and mission continues to attract people. Mr. Hurley also updated the Board on a several facilities improvements in the library and the student center.

### **Advancing Mission & Identity**

The Mission & Identity (M&I) Committee initiated an extensive discussion with full Board of Trustees through the committees and at its regular meeting to discuss the Catholic and Jesuit identity of Canisius. In preparation for this meeting, Mr. Hurley drafted a whitepaper that outlined some of the history, issues, and questions surrounding the college's status as an American, Catholic, Jesuit university and also provided trustees with a copy of Rev. James Martin's, S.J.'s book, The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything. Members of the M&I Committee led discussions at the main committee meetings. The full board discussed fundamental questions about how prepared they felt as trustees to exercise their fiduciary duty to assure mission and identity going forward and what they desired from the college to become more prepared. The Trustees expressed their dedication to sustaining the college's Catholic, Jesuit mission and identity and discussed their desire for stronger orientation and ongoing development, including experiences with the Spiritual Exercises. They also discussed the role of trustees in ensuring that mission and identity was firmly at the center of the academic experience, through hiring and orientation of faculty, and in allocating resources.

### **Academics Committee**

Dr. Teresa M. Amabile led a discussion on Catholic and Jesuit identity that emphasized the need for Canisius Trustees to engage in mission formation programs and ensure that important orientation programs in the Catholic and Jesuit mission of Canisius continue for faculty and staff. Mr. Hurley highlighted programs currently offered to faculty and staff members interested in pursuing a greater understanding of mission. Mr. Hurley informed the committee that Canisius does have a hiring for mission protocol in place and the Academic Program Board requires that departments demonstrate how they are fulfilling the mission of the college through their programs. Timothy Wadkins, PhD, director of the Institute for Global Engagement (IGE) provided background on the creation of the IGE, which will be a central office for all of the college's international initiatives. IGE has developed a comprehensive web page that will promote all international opportunities for students. IGE will also assist faculty with administrative details associated with these programs and help to identify possible funding sources. Deans Dr. Beth Gill, Dr. Richard Wall, and Dr. Jeff Lindauer provided updates on hiring activities currently underway in the three schools. Dr. Sara Morris, associate vice president for academic affairs, reported on the search for the new Physician Assistant program and the timeline and resources needed to build the program. Dr. Karl Kozlowski, chair of the Faculty Senate, reported that the Senate is working to fill vacant committee seats that occurred as a result of the recent retirements. Dr. Kozlowski also shared that faculty will be given the opportunity to complete faculty engagement survey and faculty morale survey. Results will be shared at the May Board of Trustees meeting.

### **Audit Committee Report & Resolution**

The committee reviewed the midyear financial report. The midterm report will be shared with the college's bank, M&T Bank. Larry Deni, interim chief information officer, updated the committee on the college's current cybersecurity systems. He reported that the college employs multiple hardware, software and artificial

intelligence solutions to defend the college from cybersecurity attacks. The committee reviewed the 2016 draft 990 tax filing and recommended its approval to the full Board. The following resolution was unanimously approved:

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

**Enrollment  
Management  
Committee**

The committee reviewed graduate and undergraduate enrollment statistic with Kathleen B. Davis, vice president for enrollment management. Ms. Davis reported that new student enrollment for spring finished ahead of goal, and graduate admissions was just slightly behind its credit hour goal for spring. Ms. Davis highlighted transfer recruitment efforts currently underway, including articulation agreements with several community colleges. Brian Christensen, Vice President of Human Capital Research Corp. (HCRC) gave a presentation to the committee outlining the use of financial aid to support enrollment goals. Mr. Christensen explained that student behavior, such as visits to campus, are strong indicators of their affinity to Canisius and likelihood of enrollment. Canisius uses both the students' academic profile and family financial need in order to determine the financial aid package. Students with high academic achievement and high financial need receive preferential packages. Ms. Davis provided an update on Fall 2018 freshmen statistics and recruitment tactics.

**Finance & Facilities  
Committee**

Larry Vilardo, representing the M&I Committee, led the committee in a thoughtful discussion about the Trustees' commitment to the Catholic, Jesuit mission of the college and committee's role in supporting and advancing it. The committee agreed that in their role as financial stewards of Canisius, they are required to balance the financial needs of the college with the mission. In the face of financial limitations, these decisions can sometimes be difficult. They are conscious that the allocation of resources requires great care. The committee also focused on the importance of hiring for mission and recruiting leaders at the college who can continuously promote Catholic, Jesuit ideals in the face of the declining Jesuit presence on the campus. Finally, the committee discussed opportunities to engage more closely with Provincial leaders and to participate in retreats to strengthen their understanding of the college's mission. Following this discussion, the committee reviewed the most recent FY2018 financial projections. Marco Benedetti, vice president for business and finance, reported that the deficit has grown somewhat because of a 3% decline in spring undergraduate enrollment and a similar shortfall in graduate enrollment. College expenses continue to be in line with budget but will need to be reduced and managed carefully over the remaining fiscal year to offset some of the tuition revenue shortfalls. The committee reviewed and discussed the college's plans for the Physician's Assistant program, including the financial assumptions, capital improvement requirements, and implementation timeline.

**Mission & Identity  
Committee**

The committee discussed their reactions to Mr. Hurley's whitepaper and established some guidelines for facilitating the discussions with the other committees. The committee also heard reports from the dean and associate dean of the School of Education and Human Services, Dr. Lindauer and Dr. Nancy Wallace on the Center for Urban Education and the Teacher Residency Program. Two freshmen education majors, Jesse Brodka and Saafir Northington, joined the meeting to discuss their experience with restorative justice programming and plans to establish a student club based on these practices. Dr. Sandra Estanek, professor emerita and chair of the Mission Priority Examen project, gave a report on the status of the process. She highlighted that the visiting team has been formed and that the site visit is scheduled for mid-November. She also reported the committee organized to work on the self-study report has developed its framing questions and is prepared to begin its data collection and campus conversations.

**Institutional  
Advancement  
Committee**

William Collins, vice president for institutional advancement, reported that year-to-date fundraising has reached \$6.9 million. The Canisius Fund is running slightly ahead of last year and preparations are well along for Giving Day on April 25, 2018. Board of Trustee giving year to date was reviewed and the committee discussed the need to promote giving to the unrestricted Canisius Fund. Rev. Michael Tunney S. J. led a discussion on mission and identity.

**Student Life  
Committee**

Amelia Greenan '18, President of the Undergraduate Student Association reported on the fall activities of USA and the plans for spring. Dr. Jonathan Lopez '03, chair of the faculty student liaison committee of the Faculty Senate discussed concerns regarding the use of the cross walk and safety lights on Jefferson Avenue in front of Science Hall. Wil Johnson, director of public safety, attended their meeting and offered some suggestions, including the installation of additional mobile signage. Dr. Terri L. Mangione, vice president for student affairs, led a discussion on Esports at Canisius. Dr Mangione also gave a presentation and shared preliminary data on the costs of student services offered by the Griff Center for Student Engagement and the retention rates of students who utilize those services. Committee members discussed the report and felt this was a worthwhile analysis that should be continued and expanded to include other student services offered outside of the Griff Center.

**Next Board Meeting**

May 7, 2018

**Erica C. Sammarco, Secretary**