



Vol. 25, No. 1 October 1, 2018

President's Report

President John J. Hurley reported on his trip to Bilbao, Spain for the World Assembly of Jesuit Universities in July 2018. Rev. Arturo Sosa, S.J., Superior General of the Society of Jesus, urged Jesuit colleges and universities to embody the Catholic Church's preferential option for the poor and become a "project of social transformation." Mr. Hurley also noted that a charter to establish a new International Association of International Jesuit Universities was adopted at this meeting. Mr. Hurley announced that Wehle School of Business is preparing for its 50th Business Awards Dinner. Honorees for this special event include: Jeffrey E. Gundlach, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer of DoubleLine Capital as the Business Executive of the Year Award recipient; Paul V. Hartigan, MBA '88, Chief Operating Officer for Hodgson Russ LLP, as recipient of the Dr. Bernard L. Martin Award; and former trustee, Nelson D. Civello '67, Hon '17, as the recipient of the Dr. Richard A. Shick Award for his service to the School. Mr. Hurley also recognized other trustees for their recent accomplishments. Cathy Bolz '85 MBA '89 and Hon. Acea Mosey '92 were honored at the Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony and Anthony Masiello '69 HON '96 will be honored as Distinguished Citizen of the Year at the 2019 Board of Regents Scholarship Ball. Mr. Hurley and the Board expressed their admiration and appreciation to Dr. Terri Mangione who is leaving Canisius after 24 years of service to become the new Vice President for Student Affairs at Loyola Marymount University. Dr. Annie Dobies was welcomed as interim Vice President for Student Affairs.

Academics Committee

Dr. Margaret McCarthy, Vice President for Academic Affairs, announced that the National Institute on Aging at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently awarded a \$379,731 grant to Canisius faculty from the Department of Psychology and Institute for Autism Research. The grant will be used to examine the relationship between aging and Autism Spectrum Disorder in older adults. Dr. McCarthy also said that three new affinity groups have been formed to explore possible initiatives around the topics of (1) Aging, (2) Border Initiatives and (3) Service Learning. The committee received a copy of the 2017-18 Academic Program Board (APB) Annual Report and discussed the recent development of a new MS in Finance and a Minor in Sustainability. Various departments had great success filling positions vacated by retiring faculty and she explained the APB process for approval of a new faculty positions. Aimee Larson, MPAS, presented an overview of the new Physician Assistant master's degree program, which is proposed to begin in the fall of 2020. She explained the stages to accreditation. Dr. Jeffrey Lindauer, Dean of the School of Education and Human Services, confirmed that the PA Program is off to a great start. He also reported on the new Master's in Sport Product Development that began this fall. Dr. Denise Rotondo, new Dean of the Wehle School of Business, said that she has been welcomed by faculty, staff and alumni and looks forward to reporting to the committee on her progress on several key initiatives. Dr. Peter Schaber, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences reported on a number of grant opportunities currently being pursued by faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee met on September 18 and reviewed the 2018 Audited Financial Statements. Canisius received an unqualified opinion from Deloitte and the Board voted unanimously to accept the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2018. The NCAA and Uniform Guidance A-133 reporting was also substantially complete.

Enrollment Management Committee

Ian S. Day, Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, made a presentation to the Enrollment Management Committee and the full Board of Trustees on the enrollment challenges. He explained that Canisius encountered a shrinking market and increased competition from schools offering deep discounts. Further compounding the pressure, he said, was the first full implementation year of the New York State Excelsior Scholarship Program. Additionally, Canisius introduced a tuition reset and moved to a new search firm, which generated better quality applications, but failed to produce the number of applicants needed to build a funnel that would

yield the desired number of deposited students. Mr. Day shared a series of strategies and initiatives that will help to reverse the incremental decline. He shared that a new search firm, Collegis has been hired and he also presented a marketing piece that was recently sent to current Canisius inquiries offering an additional grant to prospective students who visit and apply by December 1. Day described increased outreach through regional recruiters in Ohio, Downstate NY, and Chicago that are expected to help increase applications, and through increased efforts locally to engage high school counselors from Western New York.

**Finance & Facilities
Committee**

The committee reviewed final Fiscal Year 2018 results. Marco Benedetti, Vice President for Business & Finance, reported that the college's careful management of expenses led to a reduction in the deficit compared to the May 2018 projections. He said the deficit was primarily due to a shortfall in student revenue and the expenses associated with the faculty retirement incentive. Fiscal Year 2019 projections and the effects of the declines in enrollment were discussed. He reported that the decrease in enrollment was offset somewhat by additional resident hall revenues resulting from an agreement with SUNY Erie and lower expenses. The committee focused on opportunities to generate new revenue streams, especially through new program development and fundraising activities. Mr. Benedetti also reported that the college is in the process of amending its current 2015 Series A and B bonds and expects the amendment to be finalized in November. He announced that the endowment was valued at \$137.6 million as of August 31, 2018.

**Mission Priority
Examen Self-Study**

Mr. Hurley and Christopher Kelly, Chair of the Mission & Identity Committee, led a presentation and discussion on the draft of the Mission Priority Examen Self-Study. The process was designed by the Provinces and the AJCU to help Boards of Trustees, the Society, and universities reflect on the extent to which they are fulfilling their Catholic, Jesuit missions. Mr. Hurley reviewed the college's process for developing the report and thanked Dr. Sandra Estanek for leading the steering committee. Mr. Kelly summarized the committee's discussion and highlighted the four priorities for action based on the findings of the self-study. The Board unanimously approved a resolution to accept the self-study as presented at the meeting and to submit it to the visiting team and the campus community.

**Mission & Identity
Committee**

The committee heard a report from the new Director of Mission and Identity, Sarah Signorino, who reviewed the programs administered by the office. She said she is in the process of developing a strategic plan that will be guided by the recommendations of the Mission Priority Examen Self-Study. Priorities include new programs to advance lay formation for faculty and staff, community collaborations, support for mission-related courses and programs, and other special events that promote the college's Catholic, Jesuit mission and identity. Dr. Sandra Estanek presented the final draft of the Mission Priority Examen and invited questions and discussions on the draft. The committee was enthused about the college's impressive commitment to the mission and made a motion to recommend it for approval by the full Board of Trustees. The committee also spent time discussing future agenda planning.

**Institutional
Advancement
Committee**

William Collins, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, reported the college's year-end fundraising results for 2017-18 of \$10,231,088. The committee was introduced to Ms. Kimberly Venti, Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Ms. Mary Ellen Bakowski, major gift officer. Mr. Collins reported that the IA Division is making steady progress in implementing the recommendations made by West Wind Consulting. Ms. Liz Culliton, Director of Alumni Engagement, demonstrated the new online alumni-student networking platform, *Canisius Connect*, and said more than 700 alumni have registered on it since it went live about a month ago. Ms. Summer Handzlik, Director of the Canisius Fund, reported on her plans to emphasize unrestricted giving to the Canisius Fund and increase results from \$1.12 million in FY18 to \$2 million in FY23. The committee reviewed and endorsed the college's case for support that emphasizes unrestricted giving for current use purposes and contributions to the endowment.

**Student Life
Committee**

The Student Life Committee heard a report from Matthew Smardz '19, president of the Undergraduate Student Association, who outlined the USA goals for 2018-19. He noted that student attendance at events hosted this semester has been good. He indicated that USA has made racial diversity education a goal for this year. Dr. Debra Burhans, chair of the Faculty Student Liaison Committee of the Faculty Senate and associate professor of Computer Science, shared her desire to work closely with student leaders to address any student needs. Dr. Terri Mangione, Vice President for Student Affairs, outlined staff transitions in the division. With her departure from the college,

she announced that Dr. Annie Dobies has been appointed as Interim Vice President for Student Affairs. Dr. Mangione also reviewed the current enrollment and retention numbers with the committee. She gave a presentation on the responses from the racial climate survey that was administered to the campus community last spring. The committee encouraged additional racial diversity training for the campus community, especially for students. The committee also discussed the upcoming Mission Priority Examen Self-Study and site visit scheduled for November.

Strategic Planning

Mr. Hurley gave a report on the progress of the college's strategic plan, *Canisius 150*. He reviewed the outcomes of the 2017-18 annual operating plan and announced that progress had been made in every area, and in many instances, the defined objective was completed. He said the administration is in the process of finalizing the 2018-19 operating plan, as well as the Facilities Master Plan. Also underway are efforts to develop a Sustainability Plan for Canisius.

Future Board Meeting Dates

December 3, 2018
March 4, 2019
May 6, 2019

Erica C. Sammarco, Secretary