



Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS & SUMMARY

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President's Report

President John J. Hurley updated the Board on fall enrollment and reported that undergraduate numbers are ahead of last year, but that the college was entering into the critical last two months of the recruiting cycle. He noted that affinity for Canisius among the prospective student population appears to be strong. He went on to highlight a number of academic achievements. Based on 2017 CPA exam, alumni of Canisius' undergraduate accounting program, who sat for the CPA exam for the first time within one year of graduation, earned the highest average score on the exam and ranked first out of 44 colleges and universities in the state. College Factual named Canisius' accounting program a Best Value for the Money and *U.S. News & World Report* named Canisius' BS in accounting to its list of Best Undergraduate Business Programs. For the ninth consecutive year, the Canisius College Golden Griffin Fund (GGF) team took home first place in the Western New York Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute Research Challenge. The four-person GGF team (3 women and one male) secured its latest win at Niagara University on February 18, 2019. The team now advances to the Americas Regional in April. Mr. Hurley also reported that Fatima Rodriguez Johnson, MS '98 has been hired as the first Associate Dean for Diversity & Inclusion at Canisius and is working to coordinate various programs that meet the needs of our diverse student population. He also reported that the college has assessed the data of the Campus Climate Survey on Racial Diversity and has been hosting meetings with faculty and staff to present the results and discuss next steps. Mr. Hurley updated the Board on issues pertaining to Title IX, the federal laws governing sexual harassment. He said the Trump administration's proposed changes in Title IX regulations would be very problematic. The American Council of Education has sent a comprehensive letter opposing the amendments. Mr. Hurley announced that the New Buffalo Institute plan is coming into focus and the college is preparing to launch a public announcement of this initiative to improve our coordination and impact of the college's service efforts on the East Side of Buffalo. Mr. Hurley also discussed the Catholic Health Partnership announced in February.

Academics Committee

Dr. Margaret McCarthy, Vice President for Academic Affairs, shared current admissions figures with the committee and reported that number of admitted and deposited students was up from last year. Graduate admissions figures were also positive with encouraging results in both Data Analytics and Education. Dr. McCarthy announced that Canisius would be holding a writing retreat for approximately 15 faculty members at the Chautauqua Institution May 21 – 24, 2019. Dr. Nancy Rourke and Kathleen Brucato provided an analysis of the data collected at the faculty forum on diversity held February 13, 2019. Dr. Rourke announced that future events would include students and staff and that ultimately a strategic plan would be developed to address areas of concern. The new Intellectual Property Policy was reviewed and discussed. The committee and the full Board unanimously approved the policy. It will be published in the Canisius College Policy Manual. Committee members received a tour of the Physician Assistant program facility in Science Hall and Aimee Larson, program director, provided an update on the accreditation process. Dr. Jean Gregorek shared concern from the faculty senate about faculty salaries, the absence of any cost of living increase since 2015, and the decrease in the college's contribution to the faculty retirement plan. Dr. Jennifer Desiderio also announced that the grade grievance policy is complete.

Audit Committee

The committee reviewed the December 31, 2018 midyear financial statements required by M&T Bank. The results were in line with the budget and October projections. The committee reviewed and discussed the IRS 990 filing. Ron Haberer, Controller, reviewed the impact of the recent tax changes on this year's filing. The Unrelated Business Income Taxes (UBIT) calculation created some new taxes for the college and the introduction of the parking tax also impacted Canisius. The committee and ultimately the full board unanimously agreed to approve the 990 statements presented at the meeting. Marco Benedetti, Vice President for Business & Finance, also reviewed the status of current legal matters and insurance claims with the committee.

Enrollment Management Committee

Ian Day, Vice President for Enrollment Management, reported that as of March 1, Canisius has received 31 more deposits compared to the same date last year. Transfer & graduate numbers were similar to last year. He noted that freshman applications are down somewhat, but this appears to be a trend across the country, especially in New York State. The number of admitted students has increased from last year. This is not due to a decrease in admissions standards, but rather a higher number of completed applications. Mr. Day reported that deposits are up for all schools, with the School of Education exceeding targets in all areas. Admissions and the Wehle School of Business piloted an “open house” event in November for prospective business students and the consensus among attendees was extremely positive. A similar event will be held for STEM-related majors. The committee also reviewed transfer student activity and discussed their importance in the composition of the class. Mr. Day noted that the number of high school graduates is expected to further decline in the next few years, which will have an impact on enrollment across the nation. The committee reviewed the undergraduate initiatives in place to help drive applications and yield, including a new billboard campaign. He announced that Accepted Students Day will be March 31, 2019. Lauren Kicak, Associate Director of Graduate Admissions, gave a presentation on growing the graduate brand through communications and social media strategies, faculty collaboration, and educational partnerships. New educational partnerships with local businesses and schools are in place and the admissions team is continuing to work with faculty, leverage alumni relationships, and promote student outcomes to help with recruitment.

Finance & Facilities Committee and Resolution

The committee reviewed updated Fiscal Year 2019 operating statements, which reflected some decline in the spring graduate enrollment figures. Mr. Benedetti reported that the college continues to reduce expenses by limiting discretionary spending. The committee was updated on the progress of the Physician’s Assistant Program space at Science Hall. While some minor remediation delays have occurred, the construction is far enough along that it will not affect the accreditation visit. The college continues to move forward with the sale of 23 Agassiz and is working with the Sisters of Saint Joseph in coordinating the sale of their property at 1 Agassiz to facilitate the sale. The committee discussed fundraising and enrollment goals for the 2020 period and their impact on the Fiscal Year 2020 budget. The committee reviewed the endowment returns and activity. The endowment value is \$131.4 million.

Mission & Identity Committee

The committee reviewed the visiting team’s report from the Mission Priority Examen process. The four priorities identified in the self-study were fully endorsed and the visiting team recommended that “the Society of Jesus should reaffirm Canisius College as a Jesuit and Catholic Institution of Higher Education.” Sarah Signorino, Director of Mission & Identity, led a discussion about the Visiting Team’s report. Mr. Hurley reported on the New Buffalo Institute (NBI), a vehicle for reorganizing, refocusing, and prioritizing the College’s existing resources and partners in Buffalo. Canisius is planning to unveil the NBI publically and is currently seeking financial support for it. Mr. Hurley also provided updates on the Canisius College Jesuit Community, the AJCU presidents’ meeting, and plans for the October meeting between the AJCU presidents & U.S. provincials. Canisius’ present challenges, which are also pressing concerns at other institutions, will be among the subjects for the October 2019 gathering. The committee heard a report on the new Borders and Migrations Initiative by Dr. Richard Reitsma, Chair of Modern Languages, and Rachel Joachimi ’20. Dr. Reitsma, collaborating with over ten departments and offices, has begun offering a week of programming each semester to educate and discuss issues around (im)migration while emphasizing Canisius’ own border proximity. Dr. Reitsma and Dr. Secil Erterer are the recipients of a 2019-2020 Mission & Identity grant to expand programs around these initiatives.

Institutional Advancement Committee

Mr. William M. Collins, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, introduced new staff members: Director of Alumni Engagement Erin Zack and Development Officer James Marotto. Both Erin and James come to Canisius from the University at Buffalo. Mr. Collins reported on financial results to date: \$7.19 million in total commitments and \$3.73 million in total cash collected. The Canisius Fund is at 77% of goal and the staff is gearing up for Giving Day on April 3, 2019. A number of advancement events will be taking place in the upcoming months: Conversations with President Hurley at M&T Bank on March 13 with more than 115 Canisius alumni; Florida receptions headlined by President Hurley on March 17 (Dunedin); March 21 (Venice) and March 23 (Naples) and finally, Presidential Receptions for alumni in NYC (April 10) and Boston (June 6). The committee discussed the fundraising priorities for the college, including the current use of dollars, the endowment and capital needs tied to the college’s campus master plan that is currently in development, and progress in identifying, cultivating and soliciting donors. The committee was asked to aid advancement staff in the identification of prospective major donors. Mr. Collins provided an overview of planning for the college’s Sesquicentennial celebration during the 2019-20 academic year.

**Student Life
Committee**

The Committee heard an update from Matthew Smardz '19, President of the Undergraduate Student Association, on some new and ongoing initiatives. Trustee Maloney congratulated the students on their efforts in addressing racial diversity. Brian Smith, Director of International Partnerships and Study Abroad, presented on the various study abroad partnerships and opportunities. Mr. Smith highlighted how students gain academic and personal growth through these experiences, as well as a depth of multicultural competencies. Victoria McBride '19, an International Business and German dual major, shared her story of participating in three different international academic programs and the many transformative learning experiences that she has gained through these opportunities. Trustee, Cathy Bolz, shared the impact that her international academic program had on her education as well as future career opportunities. Dr. Timothy Wadkins, Director of the Institute for Global Engagement, spoke on the global impact that Faculty-Led International Program opportunities have on the college community and beyond. He founded the institute to develop an integrated global educational culture at Canisius. It serves as an umbrella and support system for all faculty-led international trips for both current students and alumni. Dr. Paola Fajardo-Heyward of the Political Science Department was introduced as the new student/faculty liaison. Dr. Anne-Marie Dobies, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Anne-Marie Dobies updated the Student Life Committee on the many student programs underway at the college.

Next Meeting

May 6, 2019

Erica C. Sammarco, Secretary