



Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS & SUMMARY

Vol. 26, No. 1 September 30, 2019

Trusteeship News

The Board voted unanimously to elect John R. Connolly as *Trustee Emeritus* in recognition of his outstanding service to Canisius. Mr. Connolly complete his 4th official term on the board this past June for a total of 12 years of service. He first served from 2005 until 2011 and was reelected in 2013. During his most recent terms, he served as vice chair of the Board for the past three years, chaired the Audit and Institutional Advancement Committees and served on the Finance and Facilities and Executive Committees.

President's Report

President John J. Hurley announced that he planned to attend an upcoming AJCU meeting of Jesuit Presidents and Provincials that will address the challenges of keeping Jesuit colleges and universities truly Jesuit in light of the declining number of Jesuits available. He also reported that he and Trustees Marya Propis and Tony Shelley will attend another AJCU pilot program on mission formation for trustees. He said the college's Sesquicentennial Mass held on September 14 with Canisius High School was a beautiful launch to this year of celebration. The Provincial, Rev. John Cecero, S.J., joined with members of the Canisius Jesuit Community to preside over the mass. Among its future Sesquicentennial events, Canisius will hold a three-part series through the William H. Fitzpatrick Institute of Public Affairs and Leadership focused on the future of American Catholic Higher Education. Rev. Joseph McShane, SJ, president of Fordham University, Dr. John DeGioia, president of Georgetown University, and Rev. William Leahy, S.J., president of Boston College will be part of this series. Finally, Mr. Hurley announced that the Hamlin Park Initiative has concluded. Created in 2010, the Hamlin Park Initiative was a housing program designed to return college-owned homes in the Hamlin Park neighborhood to owner-occupiers.

Academics Committee

President John Hurley presented changes made to chapter 6 of the Faculty Handbook, which governs the tenure and promotions process, and a new section governing the selection of academic department chairs. The committee approved the changes and the entire Board passed a motion approving the changes. Dr. Sara Morris, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, outlined her vision for the Academic Affairs division. She also explained that she separated the Associate Vice President position into two Assistant Vice President positions: Dr. Jeff Lindauer will specialize in curriculum and accreditation, while Dr. Jenn Lodi-Smith will focus on faculty development and the student experience. Deans Dr. Thomas Chambers and Dr. Denise Rotondo and Interim Dean of the School of Education and Human Services, Dr. Nancy Wallace each provided the committee with current initiatives within their school, including new programs, community partnerships and student and faculty development. Dr. Mick Cochrane, Chair of the English Department, made a presentation on the Canisius Contemporary Writers Lecture Series. Jesse Brodka, a student in Adolescence Education with an English concentration, provided a student perspective on the connection the authors in this series provide to his course work. Dr. Jennifer Desiderio shared continued concern from the Faculty Senate relating to the lack of raises, the reduction in retirement contribution, budget cuts and the transition of several key senior administrators.

Audit Committee

The committee reviewed 2019 audited financial statements. The auditors reported that the audit went as planned and no management letter was issued for the audit committee to address. The full Board reviewed and approved the financial statements as presented and authorized the college provide the statements to our lenders and other regulatory agencies. Deloitte also updated the committee on the progress of the NCAA agreed upon procedures and the A-133 Uniform Guidance reporting.

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 state of the prior year admissions results and plans for the current recruitment cycle. The academic profile of the freshman students was almost identical to the fall of 2018. There was a 53% increase in the number of students of color who now comprise 23.5% of the class. Among Jesuit colleges across the country, Canisius saw the second highest percentage increase in freshman deposits over last year. Deposit yield was the highest it has been in over five years at nearly 20%. Graduate enrollment did not meet goal due to a continuing

decrease in enrollment in teacher education. For this year, Canisius will continue to offer the Apply & Visit Grant, introduce new international recruiting initiatives in central Europe and South America, enhance recruitment in Rochester and Michigan, and incrementally increase the number students in the “Say Yes” program. Mr. Day stated that Canisius had just signed its 20th corporate partnership agreement, which provides discounts on graduate programs to their employees at no cost to the employer. The committee also discussed the potential impacts of a US Department of Justice investigation into higher education recruitment practices to determine if they violate federal antitrust laws.

**Finance &
Facilities
Committee**

The committee reviewed the 2019 financial results and reviewed and approved the 2020 operating budget for the college. The committee also discussed financial projections through 2023, including the enrollment assumptions underlying those projections including targeting freshmen class sizes of at least 550 and the accreditation of the Physician’s Assistant program. The committee reviewed the endowment returns and reported that the endowment value stood at \$131.6 million with fiscal YTD returns of 2%.

**Mission & Identity
Committee**

Sarah Signorino, Director of Mission & Identity, reported on Canisius’ successful completion of the 2018 Mission Priority Examen Self-Study process. In a letter from the USA Northeast Provincial, Rev. John Cecero, S.J., he announced that Rev. Arturo Sosa, S.J., Super General of the Society of Jesus, confirmed Canisius’ Catholic and Jesuit identity and the four mission priorities recommended through the study. Ms. Signorino presented the new strategic plan for the Office of Mission & Identity, which reflects the Canisius mission priorities, Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus, and aspirations of the New Buffalo Institute. President Hurley and Father Tunney led the committee in conversation about the status of the 2011 Statement of Shared Purpose, the document that outlines the understanding among the college, the USA Northeast Province of the Society of Jesus, and the Canisius Jesuit Community.

**Institutional
Advancement
Committee**

William Collins, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, reported year-to-date results of fundraising efforts: \$3.4 million in total commitments and pledges and \$1.1 million in cash. He provided an overview of the Canisius Fund 150 fundraising campaign and disclosed eight donors have each made commitments of \$150,000 for the college to use for primarily unrestricted purposes. In addition to the eight commitments, there are several other promising proposals pending and the original goal of ten \$150,000 gifts has been extended to fifteen. The college also solicited and received a \$300,000 gift from long-time supporters Richard and Karen Penfold to help fund the construction of the new student fitness center. In addition, it was recently learned the college will receive \$1.7 million from the estate of Jean-Marie Poorten MS ’70, bringing her total bequest to \$3.5 million which is the largest donation ever by a Canisius alumna; the funds were designated by Ms. Poorten for her family’s endowed scholarship fund. Ms. Erin Zack reported on the restructuring of the Office of Alumni Engagement and her efforts to tie the efforts of her office and the Canisius Fund more closely together.

**Student Life
Committee**

Dr. Daniel A. Dentino, the new Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, gave an overview of his philosophy of accompaniment, inclusion and respect in relation to student development within the Student Affairs Division. He reported on his initial assessment of student life at Canisius and discussed some of the immediate changes that he has implemented in various areas within the division. Senior Associate Dean, Mr. Matt Mulville gave an update on student engagement initiatives that are ongoing this year. He discussed introducing more robust events for students, including collaborations with athletics to promote games and encourage student attendance. He said the college will reintroduce “It is a Great Day to Be A Griff” theme with students, improved resident life and weekend programming, and implement student leadership training to reinvigorate student engagement. USA President, Abigail Hughes, ’20 spoke about her experience as a transfer student and the challenges that she faced meeting other students and making connections. The committee discussed student engagement activities, including opportunities to conduct service, with alumni who want to remain involved and connected to Canisius College.

**Future Board
Meeting Dates**

December 9, 2019
March 2, 2020
May 4, 2020

Erica C. Sammarco, Secretary