



Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS & SUMMARY

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President's Report

President John J. Hurley reported that the vice presidential searches for Enrollment Management and Academic Affairs were both underway with a slate of very good candidates for both positions. He announced that student recruitment efforts are in full swing this spring and that Scholars Day, hosted for the most academically talented prospects, was very successful. The college looks forward to Accepted Students Day at the end of March. Mr. Hurley reported that the accrediting body for the proposed physician assistant program, ARC-PA, had concluded their site visit and that their report is expected within the next month. The MS in Cybersecurity program has received New York State approval and marketing and enrollment efforts will begin immediately. Mr. Hurley reported on his meeting with cIcu, the New York State Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities, and said that the Governor's proposed expansion of the Exelsior "free tuition" program continues to be a great concern. The private sector is strongly advocating for an expansion of the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), which has not been increased in 7 years. The Board heard an update on the college's proposed response to COVID-19 (novel coronavirus). Students studying abroad at other universities were encouraged to return home and college-sponsored international travel has been limited. A comprehensive planning and preparation process is underway by the college's Emergency Infectious Disease Response Committee, and academic continuance plans have been developed. Mr. Hurley recognized Marco Benedetti, Tom Ciminelli, Director of Facilities Management, and Chuck Pelitera, EdD, of the Kinesiology Department for their work to complete the new student fitness center at the Palisano Pavilion. Mr. Hurley announced new hires in critical positions: Kim Venti was promoted to Vice President for Institutional Advancement upon Bill Collins' retirement; Mary Rech Rockwell began her position as Director of the New Buffalo Institute; and Wil Green was hired as Director of Educational Partnerships. Both Mary and Wil work with Rev. Jack Mattimore, SJ who started at Canisius in the New Year to promote the college's mission in high-needs areas of the city. Finally, Mr. Hurley reported on his work with the Movement to Restore Trust and efforts to identify the next bishop for Buffalo.

Special Presentation on Retention & Student Success

Mark Harrington, EdD, Assistant Vice President for Student Success, led a presentation on first-year retention and discussed new initiatives aimed at increasing engagement and persistence among undergraduate students. He noted that mental health is an increasing concern among students, with more than 10% of students utilizing counseling center services last year. The Griff Center for Student Success has developed and refined strategies to help students persist through academic, career, mentoring, and financial advisement services and through the Student Health and Counseling Center.

Academics Committee

Sara Morris, PhD, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, announced the Golden Griffin CFA team had won their regional competition for the 10th year in a row and will be heading to the Americas competition in April. Two Canisius students have been recommended for Fulbrights. She reported that the MS in Cybersecurity and the Advanced Certificate in Coaching have been approved by New York State, and that the college is finalizing a 3 + 3 agreement with the UB Law School. Dr. Morris reported on the coronavirus response plan, which is overseen by the Emergency Infectious Disease Response Committee that includes members from various departments across campus. Dr. Morris shared the proposed Diversity & Inclusion Statement, being developed by Fatima Rodriguez Johnson and her committee. This is part of the continuing work to address the racial climate on campus. Aimee Larson, Director of the Physician's Assistant Program, reported details of the ARC-PC Accreditation visit, conducted February 27 & 28, 2020. Dr. Morris stated that New York State approval is in process simultaneously so that

Canisius will be ready to begin marketing when the commission makes its final decision in June. If approved, Canisius will enroll its first cohort in January of 2021. Mary Rech Rockwell, PhD, introduced the New Buffalo Institute team to the committee. As Director, she explained that areas of focus for this initiative will include urban education, New Americans and entrepreneurship. The institute will help to facilitate programs, collaborations, and creative initiatives that build upon new developments in the region and address the persistent challenges and injustices in our community. She highlighted efforts to align resources to help impact East Side neighborhoods, collaborate with Wil Green, Director, School & Community Partnerships, to strengthen partnerships with Buffalo Public Schools, and work with Fr. Jack Mattimore, SJ, who will support service and ministry programs that address the needs of our East Side neighbors. Matthew Wojick, Associate VP for Marketing & Brand Engagement, made a presentation to the committee on a new major for undecided students called "Pathfinders." This initiative will allow students to explore personal strengths, interests and career paths to identify a program that is right for them. Jennifer Lodi-Smith, PhD, Interim Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, reported great success with faculty development initiatives conducted over the winter intersession and planned workshops for the future. Jean Gregorek, PhD, Co-Chair of the Educational Policy Committee of the Faculty Senate, reported on discussion between academics and athletics and said they have been helpful for parties to understand the demands on student athletes. Pending senate approval, a new grade grievance policy has been finalized. Steve Chanderbhan, PhD, Chair of the Core Curriculum Committee, outlined a pilot for self-assessment, through which faculty will review student work using a rubric to determine if students are achieving learning goals. He also reported that the committee will be looking at the diversity attribute to better understand how race and ethnicity are addressed. He reported that a complete assessment of the core will be complete by the next report of middle states in the spring of 2024.

**Audit
Committee**

The committee reviewed the 2018-19 IRS 990 statement and recommended its approval to the full Board of Trustees. The 990 was unanimously accepted.

**Enrollment
Management
Committee**

Ian S. Day, Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, reported on current applications and deposits. There is a slight decline in the number freshmen applications received for the fall 2020 campaign compared to last year and the shortfall in the number of deposits has remained constant since the December meeting. He noted that Canisius' results are in-line with national trends in higher education and among Jesuit peers, many of which have experienced declines in enrollment. Spring 2020 transfer deposits exceeded last year's results and the transfer figures for fall 2020 are on track. Graduate deposits and registrations for both the summer and fall 2020 are also up compared to last year. Mr. Day also reported on international outreach efforts in South America and Central Europe. He said that Canisius has partnered with Clarence High School and the Academy of Finance to offer a college course taught by Canisius faculty for college credit. This a pilot program that may have potential for expansion. Mr. Day updated the committee on changes to the National Association of College Admissions Counseling code of ethics and the challenge it will impose on this recruitment season. To compete against "poaching," Canisius will use strategic marketing to combat aggressive tactics by our competitors. Mr. Day acknowledged the faculty and alumni who have assisted with student outreach. Every admitted student received a handwritten note from an alumnus and faculty have been directly communicating with students admitted to their programs. He also praised the exceptional staff in undergraduate and graduate admissions for their tireless work maintaining positive enrollment results. The recent Scholars day event was a great success and registrations for the March Accepted Students Day are showing projected increase over last year.

**Finance &
Facilities
Committee**

The committee reviewed fiscal year 2020 results to date and projections for the remainder of the year. They discussed the decline in tuition revenue and reviewed an analysis of the budget shortfall. Declines in graduate education revenues, financial aid increases, and a decline in retention all contributed to the situation. The college has been able to partially offset the decrease with additional fundraising generated by the Sesquicentennial campaign and an increase in auxiliary revenues. The college has been managing expenses well to help close the budget gap,

while still investing in new programs. The committee reviewed investment activity as of 1/31/2020, which showed a balance of \$135.7 million. Board Chair, Lee Wortham, explained that the endowment is maintaining liquidity to meet the current operational needs of the college without having to liquidate positions during the market downturn. The committee reviewed real estate transactions and recommended that the Board of Trustees approve a resolution to sell nine college-owned properties on Florida Street. The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the sale.

Mission & Identity Committee

Sarah Signorino, Director of Mission & Identity, updated the committee on new staffing and initiatives coming out of her office. She introduced Fr. Patrick Lynch, SJ, professor emeritus, as the full-time Jesuit Associate of Mission & Identity. The committee heard an update on a variety of discernment-based retreats, reading groups, and Community-Based Learning. A new [online resource](#) dedicated to informing members of the college community on Jesuit mission and identity was unveiled. It includes information about Jesuit history and traditions, Ignatian Spirituality, as well as links to educational guides and other resources available within the Jesuit network. Director of the New Buffalo Institute (NBI), Mary Rech Rockwell, PhD, and Jesuit Associate of Campus Ministry and the NBI, Fr. Jack Mattimore, SJ, reported on their initial work of the NBI. Dr. Rockwell highlighted the ways in which the NBI incorporates the mission of Canisius College into its work, and in particular, into its five areas of focus: urban education, new Americans, the East-side of Buffalo, Hamlin Park community, and entrepreneurship. Dan Dentino, PhD, Vice-President of Student Affairs, reported on the ways mission is being incarnated into student programming, the long-range planning process underway, and proposed changes to improve student engagement and first-year formation.

Institutional Advancement Committee

Following Bill Collins' retirement at the end of January, Kim Venti, has been appointed to the role of Vice President of Institutional Advancement. Progress on the Canisius Fund 150 Campaign is tracking toward a goal of \$2.2 million in unrestricted support. To date, \$1.9 million in unrestricted support has been pledged or donated, \$1 million more than FY19. Overall fundraising to date is \$4.2 million in cash collected. Ms. Venti reported that there are currently 24 members of the Sesquicentennial Society. This group is comprised of donors who make gifts or pledges of \$150,000+ to Canisius. Marya Propis was recognized for her work in chairing Giving Day 2020, which is scheduled for April 22, 2020 with a goal of increasing support of the Canisius Fund 150 Campaign. The committee also thanked Ms. Propis and Chris Kelly for hosting an alumni mentoring event in NYC on May 20 at Jones Day. Mary Greenwald provided an update on the Blue & Gold Gala on May 2 at the Hyatt Regency. Committee members were encouraged to purchase tickets or a table and plan to attend.

Student Life Committee

Daniel Dentino, PhD, reported that Student Affairs departments have been working on their operational plans and he reviewed the vision, value and goals for the division with the committee. Dr. Mark Harrington, Assistant Vice President of Student Success, Eileen Niland, Director of Counseling Center, Pat Creahan, Director of Student Health and Mike Hayes, Director of Campus Ministry reported to the committee on student wellness at Canisius College and strategies that are being introduced to address the increasing number of students struggling with anxiety, mental health concerns, and food insecurity. Abbey Hughes, President of Undergraduate Student Association, also gave an update on USA Public Health week that will take place in April. The meeting concluded with a campus tour for members of the Committee.

Future Board Events

Blue and Gold Sesquicentennial Gala: May 2, 2020

Board of Trustees Meeting: May 4, 2020