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President's Report

President John J. Hurley reported on the measures undertaken by the college to comply with the public health authorities' recommendations and ensure the safety of our campus community as it faced the COVID-19 pandemic. He commended the tremendous efforts by Student Life staff to protect students and then keep them engaged as we moved to remote instruction; the creative teaching by our faculty in the hastily-designed online learning environment; collaboration between the academic administration and the Faculty Senate on academic policies needed to smooth the transition to remote instruction; collaboration among faculty to share best practices; and admissions efforts that moved from a high-touch, in person approach to a virtual one. He praised and thanked the college's faculty and staff for its phenomenal response. Looking ahead to the fall semester, Mr. Hurley outlined the range of questions and uncertainties that will challenge the planning and operations of the campus, many of which are predicated on the directives of our local and state public health authorities. Task forces are now in place for college-wide planning, student life, and academic affairs to prepare for the fall.

Report on Strategic Planning

President Hurley reported on the status of *Canisius 150: Excellence, Leadership, Jesuit*, the strategic plan for Canisius College and the annual operating goals and objectives for 2019-20. Of the 30 objectives identified, the college had completed nearly half and the vast majority of the rest are underway. Only a few remain unaddressed. In some cases, the progress of the plan was disrupted by the COVID-19 situation.

Academics Committee

Dr. Sara Morris, Vice President for Academic Affairs, praised the Golden Griffin Fund Chartered Financial Analyst Team for advancing to the Americas finals bracket of the competition. They have reached this level in five out of six years. She announced that the Canisius Physician Assistant program accreditation is progressing, with the final decision expected in July 2020. Canisius has been granted permission from NYSED to market the program through the Centralized Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA) prior to receiving provisional accreditation. Dr. Morris reviewed the academic continuance plans and changes implemented to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. She said that The Griff Center has been contacting students and parents to speak with them about their experience with remote learning. The first summer session will be taught entirely online and nearly all of the second session will be online, as well. A Recovery Task Force has been formed to evaluate and develop plans for reopening the entire campus in the fall. Dr. Mark Gallimore, Director for the Center of Online Learning and Innovation, gave a presentation on resources available to assist faculty transition their curriculum to the online environment. Drs. Julie Anna Golebiewski, Assistant Professor of Economics & Finance, and Jon O'Brien, Associate Professor of Biology, discussed their experience teaching online and shared videos illustrating their approach. Dr. Morris said that Canisius is working to develop a survey of students to understand what methods were most effective. Dr. Nancy Wallace, Interim Dean of the School of Education, and Dr. Marya Grande, Professor of Education, discussed alternative approaches adopted by the School of Education and Human Services to allow students to complete their clinical/student teaching requirements. Dr. Jean Gregorek and Dr. Andrew Stewart, Co-Chairs of the Educational Policy Committee of the Faculty Senate, discussed the transition to online learning, changes to the pass-fail policy, and senate elections for faculty committees. They also discussed faculty concerns about enrollment, student retention, the future of the institution, and the decision to delay issuing faculty contracts.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee reviewed current 2020 projections, which are slightly better than the March forecast because of expected CARES act funding. Deloitte presented their audit service plan to the committee and reported on their proposed audit timeline beginning this summer. The committee passed a resolution to approve their engagement for the fiscal year 2020 audit.

Enrollment Management Committee

Ian S. Day, Vice President for Enrollment Management, outlined concerns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, with how they have influenced the fall 2020 recruitment efforts, and the new strategies that the Admissions office has implemented. Using Zoom and other digital media, admissions counselors and faculty are meeting with high school counselors and prospective students and hosting virtual events, webinars, and guided tours of campus. Accepted Students Day, a critical recruitment event, was cancelled and replaced with additional accepted student resources on the website, including a special welcome from President Hurley, student testimonials, and a promotional video. Mr. Day announced that Canisius, like many other institutions, has extended the May 1 deposit deadline to June 1. Canisius has also made the decision to go “test optional,” which eliminates the need for students to submit standardized test scores (ACT and SAT) with their application. With uncertainty surrounding the fall semester, the financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the stock markets and state 529 savings accounts, furloughs and job loss, deposits for the fall freshmen class are understandably down compared to last year and many students and families are adopting a wait-and-see approach. Canisius is presenting prospective students with a range of incentives and messaging campaigns. Students impacted by COVID-19 have been offered a one-year financial relief award of \$2,000. Others, who had previously been accepted to Canisius over the past two years but did not enroll and live in Niagara and Erie County, are being encouraged to transfer to Canisius. Graduating seniors, facing a challenging job market, are being encouraged to stay another year to work on a master’s degree. President Hurley announced that Danielle Ianni has been named the new Vice President for Enrollment Management and will begin on May 15, 2020. Mr. Day will work with her for approximately six weeks as part of her onboarding to Canisius.

Finance & Facilities Committee

The committee reviewed the current 2020 projections and the 2021 draft operating budget. Marco Benedetti, Vice President for Business and Finance, illustrated different scenarios based on Fall 2020 enrollment. Given the uncertainties with enrollment, the committee requested that the Trustee Budget Task Force work with the senior leadership team to refine the budget plan. The operating budget will be brought forward for approval at a future date. Mr. Benedetti reported that bequests and donations continue to come in, including the final distribution of \$1.7 million from a donor’s estate. The college’s endowment, which was down to \$116 million at the end of March, recovered \$14 million in lost value during the month of April. Mr. Benedetti reported that work on the chapel roof will begin the week of May 18 as planned and that property sales on Florida Street, Glendale Avenue and Lafayette Avenue continue to move forward. There has been no change in the status of 23 Agassiz, which has been on the market for about a year.

Mission & Identity Committee

Fatima Rodriguez Johnson, Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, presented on a new strategic plan in development to address the campus climate on race. The committee also reviewed a number of documents presented at the AJCU trustee formation program hosted in the fall and discussed objectives for a Board of Trustees retreat focused on mission and identity planned for September. Sarah Signorino, Director of Mission and Identity, updated the committee on a number of initiatives her office has undertaken during this period of remote teaching and learning to continue outreach to the community.

Institutional Advancement Committee

Kim Venti, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, announced that the college has raised \$9,996,586 in commitments to date, including outright gifts, pledges, and planned giving commitments to Canisius College secured this fiscal year. The Canisius Fund 150 Campaign is on pace to make its goal of \$2.2 million, double the amount raised in FY19. Sandy Miller, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, discussed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act from which Canisius College is scheduled to receive \$2,334,830, half of which is required to be distributed directly to students with the balance

designated to offset college costs related to the COVID-19 crisis. President Hurley and Ms. Miller are working on advocating for Canisius with our elected officials and through educational organizations to urge Congress to include emergency funding for colleges and students in the upcoming stimulus package. The committee also received updates on planned giving and alumni engagement efforts. Mary Perna Greenwald, Chair of the Board of Regents, reported that despite cancelling the Sesquicentennial Gala, more than \$120,000 has been donated back to Canisius by event sponsors. Currently, there are no plans to reschedule this event.

Student Life Committee

Dr. Daniel Dentino, Vice President for Student Affairs, gave an overview of the college's response to the COVID-19 crisis. The college's Emergency Infection Control Committee (EICC) began meeting in late January. A Crisis Response Team, comprised of representatives from academic affairs, facilities, student engagement, public safety, athletics, health center, human resources, business and finance, and the president's office was then formed to develop response plans as cases began to emerge locally. The committee was introduced to members of the CRT to hear about their department's experience with the response plan. Ms. Abigail Hughes, USA President, and Mr. Patrick Eugeni, President-elect of USA, also spoke about the student experience during the academic continuance plan and on student engagement activities.

Recognition of Trustees

The Board expressed its thanks and appreciation to Rev. Jack Butler, SJ, Rev. D. Scott Hendrickson, SJ, Rev. Cy Opeil, SJ, and Susan Polvino whose terms on the Canisius College Board of Trustees are concluding as of June 30.

Future Board Events

2020 - 2021 MEETING DATES

September 27-28, 2020 (Retreat)

December 7, 2020

March 1, 2021

May 3, 2021