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President's Report

President John J. Hurley reported that fall freshman enrollment stood at 434 at the time of the meeting and expressed confidence that Canisius was on track to meet its goal of 450. He noted that the Admitted Student Day events were critical for the college. More than 74 percent of those who attended made the decision to deposit and all faculty and staff who participated were thanked for their efforts. The college looks forward to welcoming a much more diverse class. Fundraising results were also very positive running \$3.4 million ahead of last year and the endowment has hit a high of \$153 million. Mr. Hurley also reported that the Canisius MBA Accounting program earned the 33rd spot on the Best Graduate Schools – MBA Specialties list by *US News and World Report*. They also ranked the program #1 in Western New York and #4 in New York State. Ignatian Scholarship Day 2021 was held virtually this year, featuring 63 student participants showcasing their scholarship, writing and artistry. Last month, the college also hosted its virtual service week. Approximately, 240 student athletes and club members participated in service activities on Saturday, April 24 in Hamlin Park and other locations. Mr. Hurley praised the Canisius team for their win at the regional CFA Research Challenge competition for the 11th year in a row. They advanced to the Americas Finals but fell just short of advancing to the global competition. He also announced that alumna Abby Robinson '19, a graduate of the ABEC program, was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Award. In athletics, the Canisius men's lacrosse and the women's softball teams have advanced to the championship series in the MAAC Tournament. He noted that the Trustees Student Life Committee undertook a review of the Collegiate Consulting Report on Athletics. This assessment will be used to inform strategic planning in athletics. Mr. Hurley reported that the active cases of Covid-19 on campus are very low as a result of increased surveillance testing and good health practices. The college was quickly able to dispense more than \$1.2 million in relief funds to students last month and Canisius expects to receive an additional \$6 million in federal support in the third tranche of funding, half of which will be dedicated to students. The college continues to evaluate a possible mandate for proof of a Covid-19 vaccination to return to school in the fall.

Report on Strategic Planning

As Canisius approaches the conclusion of its current strategic plan, *Canisius 150*, Mr. Hurley discussed next steps in the planning process. It will commence with a visioning exercise in which members of the college community will be invited to reflect upon where we have been as an institution and to consider the opportunities before us and the aspirations we hold for the future. All of the college's constituents, including trustees, faculty, staff, students and alumni will have an opportunity to participate. We will continue to refine the process over the summer through the college's Strategic Planning Committee and in coordination with the Executive Committee of the Board.

Academics Committee

Dr. Sara Morris, vice president for academic affairs, reported that the Honors Convocation and graduation ceremonies will be held virtually this year with separate in-person graduation walks being held in the Montante Cultural Center for both the 2020 and 2021 graduating classes in groups of up to 100. Family members will have the opportunity to watch a livestream of these ceremonies either at home or in the student center. End of the year activities, including banquets, induction ceremonies, and the unveiling of the Quadrangle are underway. Dr. Morris announced that for the fall semester faculty are planning to return to in-person instruction at normal density with face coverings. She also shared the names of faculty members who received promotions and sabbaticals for the 2021-22 academic year, as well as Faculty Research, Mission & Identity and College of Arts & Sciences Dean Summer 2021 Fellowships. Academic Affairs will also offer a summer faculty writing retreat at the Beaver Hollow Conference Center in Java, NY, in order to allow participants to focus on their scholarship. Dr. Jennifer Lodi-Smith, assistant vice president for academic affairs, provided an overview of the first year experience, which will be a one-credit hour pilot course offered to incoming freshmen as a way for them to connect with campus, access resources and foster academic success. Wil Green, director of school & community partnerships for the School of Education and

Human Services, reported on a program that was developed in collaboration with the Shea's Arts Education team to help prospective teachers develop techniques for classroom management based on live simulations. Dr. Howard Stanger, chair of the faculty senate, reported that 25 faculty members participated in a brainstorming vision session that provided an opportunity to discuss the next five years from the faculty perspective. A document with the data collected, as well as the results of the faculty morale survey is forthcoming.

Audit Committee

Mr. Thomas Emmerling, committee chair, announced that the college has concluded this RFP process and selected The Bonadio Group as the college's next auditor. The change will result in \$100,000 in annual savings.

Enrollment Management Committee

The Enrollment Management Committee reviewed the current state of applications, admits, and deposits for the fall 2021 freshman class and the spring 2021 graduate class. Dr. Danielle Ianni, vice president for enrollment management, reported that Canisius continues to receive freshman applications for fall 2021, and applications are up five percent over fall 2019. Freshman applications will remain open over the summer months, and admissions decisions are being released to students on a regular basis. As of May 3, 2021, Canisius had received 434 deposits, 96.2 percent towards goal. She expressed confidence that the remaining deposits, including student athletes and HEOP students, are expected to come in within the next few weeks. Dr. Ianni expressed gratitude to the campus for their efforts in the Accepted Student Day events. With a 74 percent deposit yield rate, she credited these events for the success to date. She also acknowledged the enrollment team, including admissions, marketing, and financial aid, for all of their efforts during the yield season. Overall, the deposited class is comprised of 56.6 percent female and 43.2 percent male. The class saw considerable growth in students from out of state and outside of the Western New York region, comprising 40 percent of the deposited pool thus far. In addition to the geographic changes, the class will be increasingly diverse, with 62.1 percent of the class reporting as White, 12 percent as Black or African American, eight percent as Hispanic, five percent as Asian, and seven percent as two or more races. Dr. Ianni also gave a brief update on summer and fall graduate enrollment and recruitment efforts. She stated that graduate admissions are currently running behind prior year application and admit counts, but registrations are holding steady. Within the last two weeks there has been a considerable uptick in interest, and they are closely monitoring the situation.

Finance & Facilities Committee

The committee reviewed the updated fiscal year 2021 forecast and the fiscal year 2022 operating and capital budgets. Operating results for FY21 appear to be slightly better than expected and the FY22 forecast is somewhat lower than previously projected due to the timing of certain revenue and the expenses incurred from the Covid-19 response efforts. The capital budget, approximately \$2.7 million, includes a number of required maintenance items such as the replacement of the roofs on Bosch and Frisch Halls, and replacements and improvements to the information technology infrastructure. Lee Wortham, chair of the Board of Trustees, reported on the endowment, which hit an all-time high of \$153 million, with calendar 2020 performance exceeding benchmarks, and the transition to the new investment advisor, Cambridge Associates, proceeding smoothly. The committee recommended and the Board of Trustees voted unanimously on resolutions to approve the FY22 operating budget, including a reinstatement of salaries to FY20 levels; the capital budget; a seven percent spending rate from the endowment; and the restoration of the 403(b) matching contribution to four percent for eligible faculty and staff.

Mission & Identity Committee

The committee heard a report on Campus Ministry activities from Kaitlyn Buehlmann, associate campus minister. She highlighted the shift to virtual engagements, day-long retreats and service immersion activities, as well as social justice lectures and seminars. She noted that Sunday Mass was livestreamed on the Campus Ministry Facebook page and alumni from out of town appreciated being able to pray with the community in Christ the King Chapel again. Four students – Cat Callahan '21, Deanna Garwol '21, Morgan Morris '21, and Zach Lundy '22 – spoke about the impacts Campus Ministry has had on their lives. They highlighted their participation in or leadership of retreats, social and racial justice programs, and local and international immersion trips. They also discussed their experiences of the past year in participating in these programs in the virtual environment.

Institutional Advancement Committee

President Hurley reported that Canisius was approved for a \$4.4 million New York State Higher Education Capital Matching Grant for the second floor renovations of Science Hall. The grant must be matched on a 3-to-1 basis and is structured as a reimbursement grant. The Institutional

Advancement team, in conjunction with President Hurley, is embarking on a targeted capital campaign to raise \$5 million over the next 6-12 months to secure these matching funds. When completed, the second floor will house the departments of biology and animal behavior, ecology and conservation and provide our faculty and students with state-of-the-art teaching and training facilities. With biology among the largest majors at the college, the improvements will support recruitment and retention. Kimberly Venti, vice president for institutional advancement, reported that \$8.2 million has been collected to date, \$3.4 million ahead of last year. Since 2018, fundraising has increased \$1 million each year over the past three years. The planned giving newsletter, "Vision," was reviewed by the committee and they also heard a report on the virtual Canisius Reunion scheduled for Thursday, June 3. Summer Handzlik, senior director of annual giving and stewardship, reported on the college's 5th annual Giving Day, chaired by Anthony Limina, president of the Alumni Association. The 24-hour campaign concluded with 1,917 donors making more than 2,300 gifts for a total of \$387,248 raised. Beth Edbauer, chair of the Board of Regents, gave a brief update on changes to their primary fundraising event. The event is scheduled for Friday, November 5, 2021 at The Rich Atrium. The Pullano Family will chair the event.

Student Life Committee

Associate dean of students & Title IX coordinator, Kathleen Farley, and student engagement coordinator, Dyanna Moreira, gave a presentation on changes and improvements to the New Student Orientation program and student leadership development initiatives. Dr. Danielle Ianni updated the committee on the changing student demographics and discussed the impacts for student life on campus. Director of Athletics William Maher reviewed the executive summary of a detailed report prepared by Collegiate Consulting and described the ways in which the findings will inform strategic planning in athletics. USA President, Patrick Eugeni, gave his final presentation to the committee and introduced the president-elect, Alyssa Deacon. Mr. Eugeni, along with graduating seniors, Rebecca Praetzel, and Saafir Northington, offered reflections on their time at Canisius.

Recognition of Departing Trustees

The Board thanked and recognized the following Trustees who have concluded their terms of service:

- David S. Ciancimino, S.J.
- Thomas R. Emmerling
- Anthony Limina
- Acea M. Mosey
- Cynthia E. Vance
- Nancy W. Ware
- Lee C. Wortham

Election of New Trustees

The following individuals were elected to a three-year term of service on the Board of Trustees:

- Jerry Canada '86, president, Harris Computer
- Cindy Odom '90, chief community impact officer, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
- Nora Eberl Plizga '92, co-owner, CFO, Eberl Iron Works
- Tony Spada '80, president/CEO, AAA of Western & Central NY
- Joyson Thomas '03, CFO, H.I.G. Capital/Whitehorse Finance
- Dr. Margaret Paroski '77, chief medical officer, Catholic Medical Partners
- Cindy Skrzycki '76 – professor of journalism, University of Pittsburgh
- Vince Roux '90, senior VP, global head of mergers & acquisitions, Broadridge
- Rev. Tom Krettek, S.J., philosophy professor and dean of First Studies for Jesuits in Formation, Loyola University Chicago

The Board also approved the election of Nancy W. Ware as *Trustee Emerita*. Martin J. Berardi will serve as the next chair of the Board of Trustees. All terms are effective July 1, 2021.

Future Board Meetings

2021 - 2022 Meeting Dates

Sep. 27, 2021

Dec. 6, 2021

Mar. 14, 2022

May 9, 2022

Submitted by Erica C. Sammarco, secretary