



Vol. 28, No. 3 | March 21, 2022

**Resolution
Appointing Steve K.
Stoute as the 25th
President of Canisius
College**

The Board unanimously adopted a formal resolution appointing Steve K. Stoute as the 25th President of Canisius College.

President's Report

President John J. Hurley thanked the Trustees for their support for President-elect, Steve Stoute. He said the announcement was very well received in the community and in the media as a result of his announcement. Mr. Hurley reported on undergraduate enrollment and said there are positive numbers in terms of applications, admitted students and now, deposits. He commended the admissions team and noted the importance of the upcoming Admitted Student Day events this spring. As Covid-19 infection rates have continued to decline, Mr. Hurley reported that the college has relaxed a number of its restrictions. Mr. Hurley also reported on the renovation of Science Hall and the parking ramp projects discussed in detail by the Finance & Facilities Committee. He discussed the college's ongoing partnership with local resettlement agencies to assist Afghan evacuees arriving in Buffalo. All four of the college's designated residence hall units are currently occupied and to date, twenty evacuees have utilized housing on Canisius' campus.

**Report on NYS
Changes to the
Definition of
University**

In January, the New York State Board of Regents and the State Education Department voted to adopt a new definition of what institutions can call themselves "university" in the State of New York. With the highly restrictive requirements lifted, a number of colleges in the state have pursued a change to reflect "university" in their name and designation. Based on the Board's recommendation in December to conduct additional research, Mr. Hurley reported that he has reached out to schools that have undergone this process for guidance and enlisted the services of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) to provide consultation on the process. Mr. Hurley noted the importance of considering the presidential transition, seeking feedback from our constituents, especially alumni, obtaining cost estimates, and assessing opportunities to rebrand the college in our planning process. For many institutions, a designation change is also an opportunity to raise the academic bar. Mr. Hurley said a whitepaper on the topic will be presented at the Board's May meeting.

Academics Committee

Sara Morris, PhD, vice president for Academic Affairs, reported that the Golden Griffin Fund (GGF) team, mentored by faculty members, Steve Gattuso '87, MBA '88, and Rick Wall '87, PhD, secured first place in the WNY Chartered Financial Analyst (CFS) Challenge for the twelfth year in a row. Dr. Morris reported that the college is currently conducting the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), which provides critical information on first-year and senior students' participation in programs and activities that institutions provide for student learning and personal development. Tom Chambers, PhD, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, reported that 90 members of the campus community had engaged in various working groups that identified challenges and opportunities in five key areas: recruitment, diversity, culture, academics, and operations. The final report will provide the new president with feedback from the community and help set the stage for future strategic planning. Dr. Morris also reported that the college has been working on a number of transfer articulation agreements with community colleges to help transfer students identify course equivalents as they transition to Canisius. Jenn Lodi Smith, PhD, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, has agreed to chair the Laudato Si Action Plan Committee and will begin working with three action groups associated with this important environmental initiative. The committee discussed two new academic program proposals: a BS in Anthrozoology and MA in Informal Education and Interpretation and voted in favor of bringing them to the full board meeting for a vote. The Board of Trustees unanimously adopted them. Howard Stanger, PhD, chair of the Faculty Senate, said that the faculty look forward to welcoming Mr. Stoute as the next president of Canisius. Dr. Stanger discussed opportunities for Trustees to help identify

internships in cybersecurity and data analytics for Canisius students and engage with students. He also discussed faculty and staff concerns over pay raises. Steve Chanderbhan, PhD, chair of the Core Curriculum Committee (CCC) reported that the new assessment plan was approved by the Faculty Senate and will be implemented in Fall 2022. The new plan shifts to a self-assessment model. He also reported that the CCC recently completed a revision to the diversity attribute. Yvonne Widenor, co-chair of the Educational Police Committee (EPC), reported that the Senate approved revisions to the academic integrity policy. The EPC has also worked with Dr. Morris on communications regarding class cancellation.

Audit Committee

The Board of Trustees passed a resolution to ratify the Audit Committee's approval of the FY21 IRS 990 statement.

Enrollment Management Committee

Danielle Ianni, PhD, vice president for Enrollment Management, provided an overview of the fall 2022 applicant and admitted pool as of March 10. She announced that Canisius is 96 percent toward the freshman admitted student goal. Applications are up by 12 percent, or 399, from the prior year, totaling 3,674 applications. The number of admitted students are also up by seven percent from the prior year. At this time, the admitted class is comprised of 60 percent female and 40 percent male students. Canisius continues to see an increase from out of state and outside of the Western New York region, which comprises 45 percent of the admitted pool thus far. Diversity within the class also continues to increase, with 42 percent of the class reporting as Black or African American, Hispanic, Asian, or two or more races. Currently, deposits are trending ahead of last year. In graduate admissions, Dr. Ianni reported a 19 percent increase in graduate applications for spring 2022, a 22 percent increase in admits, and a seven percent increase in registered students over last year. While she pleased with the progress made, Dr. Ianni noted that there is still opportunity for improvement. Net tuition revenue and headcount goals were missed at the graduate level for the spring semester. The meeting concluded with an overview of financial aid practices. The committee discussed need-based and merit aid and the discounting practices. Dr. Ianni explained the college's econometric model used for awarding aid. Over the last two years, Canisius has been able to increase net tuition revenue and improve the discount rate each year, while the wealth of the class has remained consistent. This was achieved through effective aid awarding strategies, backed by targeted recruitment plans that convey Canisius' strong value proposition. She said Canisius will strive to maintain this trend while strategically increasing headcount.

Finance & Facilities Committee

Tim Balkin, vice president for Business and Finance, discussed campus facilities, including the sale of Health Science and Demerly Hall that are currently on the market. He also provided an update on the discussions with the Buffalo Sewer Authority (BSA) and progress of the demolition of the parking ramp. The BSA continues to revise its plans, but the college intends to proceed with the demolition of the ramp this summer and add additional parking in time for the start of the fall 2022 semester. The committee reviewed the FY22 financial forecast, which is trending on budget. Cash flow for FY22 is projected to be better than expected largely due to the delays associated with the ramp demolition and surface lot construction. Mr. Balkin reported that the FY23 budget is in development. There is still significant work to be done. The college is facing a variety of inflationary pressures that need to be addressed. The committee reviewed and discussed the extension of the 2012 bond to 2025, and the proposed construction loan to finance the build-out of Science Hall. The meeting concluded with an overview of the endowment, which with market conditions has declined from its December high to \$169 million at the end of February.

Mission & Identity Committee

The Mission & Identity Committee heard a report from Sandra Estanek, PhD, interim vice president for Student Affairs, on current initiatives in Campus Ministry to meet the pastoral and spiritual needs of Canisius students through prayer, mass, retreats and other programs that connect students to the mission of the college. She also announced that the search for a full-time director of Campus Ministry is underway. The committee also discussed trustee formation around Catholic, Jesuit mission and identity. It discussed an article on the many issues facing Catholic colleges and universities and reviewed opportunities to better inculcate trustees in mission and identity. Anthony Shelley '84, committee chair, reported that discussions are underway with Stephanie Russell, EdD, at the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, who will assist us with developing a pilot program for Canisius' Trustees to support their professional development in the foundations of Jesuit education and the fiduciary responsibilities the Board has to support and advance the institutional mission. The committee also discussed the onboarding of President-elect Stoute and opportunities to facilitate his orientation to the Jesuit mission in higher education.

**Institutional
Advancement
Committee**

Kim Venti, vice president for Institutional Advancement, reported that fundraising has reached \$6.4 million, eight percent ahead of last year at this time. The campaign for Science Hall has received \$3.6 million in commitments with lead gifts from John W. Rowe '66, HON '02, MD and Valerie A. Rowe, PhD, the John R. Oishei Foundation, Trustee *Emeriti* Nancy Ware '78, MBA '85, John B. '72 and Patricia Z. '74, MS '01 Connolly, former Trustee Kenneth Myszka '70, and the James H. Cummings Foundation. Erin Zack '00, MS '04 introduced the new assistant director for Alumni Engagement, Sarah Sterzinger '18 MS '21. Ms. Zack provided details on President Hurley's retirement celebration scheduled for Friday, May 6, at 6 pm at the Atrium at Rich's. The event is nearly sold out with just a few tickets remaining. Trustees who have not yet RSVP'd and plan to attend are urged to let the Office of Alumni Engagement know as soon as possible. Mary Ellen Bakowski '85, MBA '90 provided an update on the activities of the Planned Giving Committee. This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Rev. James M. Demske '47, SJ, Society and the committee is working to build awareness and increase membership. All current and new Demske members are invited to a donor reception on Thursday, June 23, from 6 -8 pm in Loyola Hall. Summer Handzlik provided an overview of the Canisius Fund Giving Day event scheduled for Wednesday, April 6. A goal of \$500,000 has been set.

**Student Life
Committee**

Sandra Estanek, PhD, interim vice president for Student Affairs, provided updated information on the organizational chart and discussed progress on the 2021-2022 goals for the Division of Student Affairs. Dr. Estanek also provided an overview of the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) standards and how they are being implemented at Canisius. The committee also heard a report on Campus Ministry activities, including plans to search for a permanent director. Dr. Estanek shared the job description of the vice president for student affairs (VPSA) and said that the search for the permanent vice president was underway. Finally, Dr. Estanek indicated that student affairs job descriptions will be reviewed and updated as needed to include in a briefing book for the new VPSA. USA president Alyssa Deacon '22 updated the Trustees on upcoming student activities on campus. She announced that Buffalo Bills Quarterback Josh Allen will speak on campus in April. The committee also heard reports from Jason Francey, director of student engagement, and Chief Kim Beaty, director of Public Safety on developments in their areas.

Future Board Meeting

May 9, 2022

Submitted by Erica C. Sammarco, secretary