



## Board of Trustees HIGHLIGHTS & SUMMARY

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### President's Report

President Steve K. Stoute submitted a report to the Board of Trustees and responded to questions. His report highlighted the positive response to the test-free admissions policy announcement, the important increase in student attendance and engagement at events and programs, notable academic grants and partnerships, as well as fundraising accomplishments. He also provided an update on ongoing facilities projects.

### Resolutions

The Board of Trustees was presented with several important matters and unanimously approved the following:

1. Rev. Daniel R. J. Joyce, SJ, vice president for Mission and Ministry at St. Joseph's University, was elected to a term of service on the Board of Trustees effective January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.
2. The replacement of the turf at the Demske Sports Complex (DSC) and necessary improvements to the surrounding support structures.
3. Amendments to the Faculty Handbook.
4. A tuition increase for undergraduate students of approximately 3 percent for the 2023-24 academic year.

### Strategic Visioning

The Board of Trustees continued its work, begun in September, on Strategic Visioning. President Stoute reviewed emerging themes from the visioning discussions ongoing with various constituent groups and facilitated a discussion with trustees to determine opportunities to shape the strategy in critical areas of Mission, Academics, and Student Success.

### Academics Committee

Sara Morris, PhD, vice president for academic affairs, reported that at the next Academic Program Board (APB) meeting the APB will vote on two new graduate-level advanced certificates in "Business Skills" (6 credits) and Advanced Business Skills" (9 credits). Certificates are comprised of elective business coursework and may be tailored to an individual's or corporate partner's needs. Dr. Morris also noted that the APB will review a proposal to revise the academic probation policy to address students that are not making satisfactory progress toward their degrees. Jeff Lindauer, PhD, assistant vice president for academic affairs, and co-chair of the Middle States Self-Study Steering Committee, provided an overview of the self-study process that will take place over the next two and a half years. Dr. Lindauer explained that the institutional priorities will derive from the strategic planning process and that the design process is expected to conclude by the end of spring 2023. The self-study report will be developed throughout the 2023-24 academic year, and the team visit will occur in April 2025. Dr. Morris presented amendments to the Faculty Handbook to address guidelines for non-renewal of tenure-track faculty members and changes to the annual review process for tenured faculty. Yvonne K. Widenor reported on behalf of the Educational Policy Committee (EPC) and highlighted that the committee has been in the process of reviewing an inclusive syllabus template, which is intended to provide students with centralized access to campus support services and enable faculty to streamline their syllabi to include only course related information. Ms. Widenor also reported that the EPC is reviewing a request, approved by the Faculty Senate, to add completion of FYE 101, Business X (first year business students), or GRIF201 (transfer students) as a required component of the core curriculum.

**Enrollment  
Management  
Committee**

Danielle Ianni, PhD, vice president for enrollment management, provided an overview of the fall 2023 applications and admissions. As of December 2, 1,784 applications were received, down six percent, or 125 from the prior year, but 11 percent ahead of Fall 21. Dr. Ianni highlighted improvements in converting inquiries to applications and emphasized that, while it is still early in the recruitment cycle, strong FAFSA completion rates are positive indicators for continued growth. New student admissions are up from last year by two percent and acceptance notifications continue to go out to applicants on a regular basis. Dr. Ianni also discussed the process improvements underway to drive transfer student enrollment. The committee heard an update on new initiatives in graduate recruitment, including an increased focus on international and online student recruitment, and the implementation of new efficiencies in operations. Currently spring graduate applications are up by 67 percent, admits are up by 57 percent, and registrations have nearly doubled compared to last year at this time. The committee concluded its meeting with a detailed presentation on the undergraduate social media plan, including the addition of student influencers, and new platforms such as ZeeMee and TikTok.

**Finance &  
Facilities  
Committee**

Timothy P. Balkin, vice president for finance and facilities, gave the committee an update on campus facilities, including the prospective sale of Demerly Hall, which subsequently sold on December 12. He also discussed possible options for the use of certain spaces in Science Hall and gave an update on the status of the temporary surface parking lot. Completion of the temporary surface lot remains dependent on the availability of materials and the weather conditions. The committee also discussed the turf replacement and renovations proposed for the Demske Sports Complex and endorsed a resolution to invest in necessary improvements. The committee reviewed the financial forecast for FY23 and Mr. Balkin reported that the projected deficit is expected to be higher than expected. Lower revenues combined with various cost increases, including interest rates and utilities expenses, have contributed to the worsening projection. The college's 2012 bond issue, which was temporarily extended to June 1, 2023, is expected to be further extended to November of 2025. Capital expenditures this fiscal year are estimated at \$4.25 million, including \$1.8 million for the demolition of the parking ramp and construction of the temporary surface lot. Mr. Balkin also reported on the college's application for the Employee Retention Credit available through Covid relief legislation. The endowment value at the end of October was at \$145 million and the return over the last twelve months was a negative 15.1 percent, in line with the decline in equity and debt markets generally.

**Mission &  
Identity  
Committee**

Sandra Estanek, PhD, special assistant to the president for mission, led a presentation on the development of a 90-minute virtual mission formation session for trustees. The program will be grounded in the AJCU Characteristics of Higher Education and the Universal Apostolic Preferences, with the goal to advance trustees' knowledge of their fiduciary responsibilities for mission. Dr. Estanek also reported on the re-establishment of the Canisius Colleagues Program (CCP) for faculty and staff following a two-year pause during the pandemic. Twenty-six faculty and staff are participating in CCP, which meets once each month to engage with Jesuit history, ideas, and values, and to discuss what it means to work at a Jesuit institution. Another 14 faculty and staff members are participating in a new CCP II program, designed for those who have participated in CCP previously and wish to have a more in-depth experience. Spencer Liechty, director of campus ministry, updated the committee on the activities of Campus Ministry this semester, including: establishing a weekly Sunday Mass schedule with a rotation of presiders and committed music ministry, a Kairos retreat in November, and other community building activities. He shared that new immersion experiences are planned and will be available for winter break, spring break, and at the end of the year in June.

**Institutional  
Advancement  
Committee**

President Stoute shared with the committee plans for launching a comprehensive fundraising campaign and outlined the proposed timeline. Preliminary planning efforts already underway and the campaign plan is expected to be presented for Board approval in Spring of 2024. The campaign goal will be determined through a feasibility study and in conjunction with the college's new strategic plan priorities. Kim Venti, vice president for institutional advancement, reported on year to date fundraising and noted that giving was approximately 20 percent behind last year, due in part to significant planned gifts realized in the prior year. Ms. Venti announced the

establishment of the President's Innovation Fund to provide resources for President Stoute to invest immediately in institutional priorities. The committee also reviewed President Stoute's RISE Tour plans where he will continue to talk with donors and alumni about the vision for the future. Cecelia Gotham '13, MS '15, director of alumni engagement, provided an overview of the new and enhanced All Alumni Weekend scheduled for June 2-4, 2023. Events will include the Friday night tent party, a new Saturday morning lecture (with breakfast), and a Saturday evening fundraising event (formerly known as the Regents Ball) to raise funds for student scholarships, which will be held at the Powerhouse at Buffalo Color Park. The weekend will conclude with Mass and brunch in Christ the King Chapel on Sunday morning. More details will be released, and all are invited to attend.

### **Student Life Committee**

Harold Fields, EdD, vice president for student affairs & dean of students, provided the committee an overview of the new student engagement landing page, [GriffNet](#). Dr. Fields also shared that Canisius College is now a member of the National Association of Behavioral Intervention and Threat Assessment (NABITA). This membership will provide Canisius with access to a large number of resources to support the well-being of the campus community. Mark Harrington, EdD, assistant vice president for student development and academic success, reported on student success and retention initiatives and discussed the predictive model employed to support student persistence and success. William Maher, director of athletics, reported on the proposed Demske Sports Complex renovation and explained the importance of the project. Mr. Maher also discussed the recently passed NYS Collegiate Athletics Participation Compensation Act, which allows student athletes to receive compensation for use of their name, image, or likeness. Jahare Hudson '24, Undergraduate Student Association (USA) president, updated the committee on student engagement and initiatives, and announced that he has been elected co-chair of the Jesuit Student Government Alliance. He will meet with representatives of other Jesuit institutions to discuss best practices and voice opinions to help meet the needs of all members of the community.

### **Future Board Meetings**

#### **2022 - 2023 Meeting Dates**

February 27, 2023

May 8, 2023

**Submitted by Erica C. Sammarco, secretary**