

Vol. 19, No. 2 March 11, 2013

President's Report

President John J. Hurley gave a report on the success of his trip to Rome to meet with Fr. General Adolfo Nicolas. Mr. Hurley met with him and a small group of university leaders to discuss issues in American, Jesuit higher education in preparation for Fr. General's visit to the United States this fall.

Mr. Hurley reported on the recent AJCU President's Meeting. He discussed Fairfield University's study on issues affecting undocumented students at Jesuit colleges and universities. He reported that he had joined with 25 other AJCU institutions to sign a pledge to support these students on our campuses. Mr. Hurley said there was discussion among the presidents about the Health and Human Services mandate to cover the costs of contraception in health plans for employees. Mr. Hurley noted that Canisius abides by New York State law, which requires that the health plans cover contraceptives. Mr. Hurley also met with local political delegation about preserving Pell Grant Funding, which represents approximately \$4 million for Canisius in federal student aid.

Mr. Hurley reported that the basketball team is doing well and that he authorized Athletic Director, Bill Maher, to send the team to the College Insider Tournament.

Election of the New Board Chair

The Board of Trustees unanimously adopted the following resolution to elect Edward Burke Carey as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Resolved, that Edward Burke Carey '69 be elected to a one year term as chair of the Canisius College Board of Trustees effective July 1, 2013.

Strategic Assessment Report

Mr. Hurley gave a presentation on the status of the strategic assessment. He began with a discussion of the current budget situation and then explained the three-pronged approach to implementing the recommendations of the Pappas Report: Academic Program Review, Non-Academic Program Review, and Enrollment/Retention Programs. Related initiatives include the formation of two college-wide task forces focused on Athletics and Retention. The college also has retained Next Point, LLC, a consulting firm to assist the business and finance area. Mr. Hurley also discussed the senior leadership positions in transition. Searches are underway for Vice Presidents in Enrollment Management and Retention and Institutional Advancement. Dr. Terri Mangione will serve as Interim Vice President and Dean of Students when Dr. Ellen Conley retires at the end of the current academic year.

Academics Committee

Christine Licata-Culhane, PhD, reported that the Academics Committee discussed recruitment, enrollment, financial aid, and retention matters. The committee commended Dr. Richard Wall for the excellent work he has done as Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs. The committee discussed the Academic Program Review which focuses primarily on balancing teaching loads, a reduction of full-time personnel through non-replacements of vacancies and retirements, reductions in adjunct faculty, and curricular efficiencies. The committee discussed the importance of maintaining a focus on student satisfaction and discouraged any changes that would increase time required for degree completion. Dr. Licata-Culhane said that the committee heard a report from Richard Escobales on Faculty Senate concerns. She reported that the committee discussed financial aid modeling with the college's consultant, Maguire and Associates. The committee reviewed the Middle States Commission on Higher Education reaccreditation process and the formation of the college's steering committee for reaccreditation. Larry Jones, PhD gave a presentation to the committee on the status of assessing the core curriculum. The committee also heard from Fr. Daniel Jamros, SJ, but decided not to act, on several proposed modifications to the Faculty Handbook until the Handbook is reviewed in connection with the strategic assessment initiatives.

Audit Committee	Donald Lynch reported that the committee reviewed the May 31, 2012 audited financial statements. Deloitte & Touche issued an unqualified opinion for Canisius. The committee approved the selection of Deloitte as the college's auditor for 2013-2014.
Finance and Facilities Committee	Kenneth Myszka reported that the committee reviewed the February 2013 financial statements. Revenue is below projections and the college is attempting to reduce expenses through a general spending freeze. He reported that the 2013-14 budget is currently under development and will be presented for a vote in May. As a result of challenges in new student recruitment and retention, the committee could not agree on a proposed tuition rate increase. He asked for more detailed analysis from Maguire and Associates and requested a motion to empower the Executive Committee to make a decision on the tuition rate. The resolution was approved. Mr. Myszka also reported that the firm of Freed Maxick has been retained to assist the college with the management of the endowment and with the completion of tax returns. He also reported that the committee heard a positive report from the Investment Advisory Subcommittee.
Tuition Rate Increase	At a subsequent meeting held on March 14, 2013, the Executive Committee approved the following: <i>Resolved</i> , that the Executive Committee approves the following guidelines for the 2013-14 operating budget, including full-time undergraduate tuition of \$31,990, an increase of \$1,210 or 3.9%, room and board of \$12,270, an increase of \$450 or 3.8%, and a 5% spending rate from the endowment.
Institutional Advancement Committee	Nelson Civello reported on major gifts fundraising and on the performance of the Canisius Fund. Unrestricted giving and the number of donors are lower than last year. The Institutional Advancement team is developing new strategies to increase participation in the Canisius Fund and in the Leadership Society. He reported that the Office of Alumni Engagement has been busy with a number of events in Florida and is preparing for Alumni Weekend. The committee also heard a very good presentation from Legacy Leaders, a firm that works with universities to increase bequests and planned gifts through a direct marketing program.
Mission & Identity	Mary Grace Diehl reported that the committee heard from Luanne Firestone on collaborations between Campus Ministry and the Office of Mission and Identity, including the success of the Cura Personalis Project. The committee also heard from participants in the Ignatian Colleagues Program on their experiences. Ms. Diehl also reported that the committee read the <i>Characteristics of Jesuit Colleges and Universities</i> published by the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities and discussed the importance of this document on the work of the Mission and Identity Committee.
Student Life Committee	Rev. Joseph Costantino, S.J. reported that the committee heard from Brock Wilkenson, USA President, on students' interests and concerns. The committee discussed athletics funding for post-season play for the basketball and hockey teams. On matters of retention, the committee talked about the the loss of transfer students this semester and the role that progress reporting has in influencing student retention. The committee also discussed the upcoming transition in Student Affairs leadership.
Trusteeship Committee	Rocco Maggiotto reported on new trustee recruitment. The following resolution was presented and unanimously approved: <i>Resolved</i> , that the following individuals be contacted to ascertain their interest in being elected to a three year term on the Board of Trustees effective July 1, 2013: Mary Belle '73, John R. Connolly '72, Lenora Foote-Beavers '92, Richard N. Gilbert, Jr. '84 MD, and Dennis F. Strigl '74. Mr. Maggiotto also presented a new statement of trustee roles and responsibilities. The document will be used in the recruitment of all future board members and to guide trustee evaluations. Mr. Maggiotto also reported that the Board is due to conduct a self-assessment of its effectiveness this year. A survey will be conducted in May and the results will be discussed at a retreat in the fall.

Future Dates:

Final 2012-2013 Board of Trustee Meeting

- May 6, 2013

Other Important Dates

- Regents Ball – Saturday, May 4, 2013
- Graduate Commencement Ceremony – Wednesday, May 15, 2013
- Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony – Saturday, May 18, 2013

Erica C. Sammarco, Secretary