



Vol. 19, No. 3 May 6, 2013

President's Report

President John J. Hurley expressed appreciation to Dr. Richard Escobales, who concluded his term as Chair of the Faculty Senate, for his work on behalf of the faculty and welcomed Dr. Michael Noonan as the new chair.

Mr. Hurley reported on the freshmen enrollment projections. He expects that the college will achieve its budgeted projections and welcome 690-700 students in the freshmen class this fall. Mr. Hurley acknowledged the diligent work of the admissions staff, the marketing/communication team, and the faculty who supported this effort in a very challenging recruiting environment.

A number of accomplishments in the college's academic programs were reported. The Canisius Enactus team (formerly SIFE) was selected as league champion at the Chicago Regional Enactus Competition in April. The team will advance to the National Exposition later this month. For the second time in three years, a team of finance majors advanced to the semifinals of the Americas Regional Finals of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute Research Challenge. In accounting, Canisius alumni ranked 2nd in the overall pass rate in New York State on the 2012 CPA exam cycle. Canisius participants scored 1st on the auditing portion, 1st on the financial accounting and reporting portion, and 3rd in on the business environment and concepts portion of the exam. Mr. Hurley also reported that two graduating seniors were awarded the prestigious William J. Fulbright Scholarship for research.

Mr. Hurley discussed the President's Athletics Report and highlighted several program achievements, among them conference championships in women's lacrosse and men's ice hockey, and 20 wins and a post-season tournament appearance for the men's basketball team. He also explained the reasons for moving the synchronized swimming program from varsity status to a club sport.

Mr. Hurley also acknowledged Dr. Ellen Conley, Vice President for Student Affairs, who after 43 years of service to Canisius, is retiring. Dr. Terri Mangione will assume the leadership of the division as Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students.

2013-14 Budget Plan

Mr. Patrick Richey, Vice President for Business and Finance, gave a presentation on the development of the 2013-14 operating budget. Following the presentation, the Board approved the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the operating guidelines for the 2013-14 operating budget presented at this meeting.

Resolved further, that the Board of Trustees approves a 5% spending rate from the college's endowment for the 2013-2014 operating budget

Resolved further, that the Board of Trustees approves the capital budget and plan for the 2013-14 fiscal year presented at this meeting.

Trusteeship Committee Resolution

The Board unanimously approved the following:

Resolved, that the following individuals be elected to a three-year term on the Board of Trustees effective July 1, 2013: John R. Connolly '72, Rev. Rocco Danzi, S.J., Lenora Foote-Beavers '92, Richard N. Gilbert, Jr. '84 MD, and Dennis F. Strigl '74.

Resolved, that the following individuals be elected to a second three-year term on the Board of Trustees effective July 1, 2013: Larry Aiello, Jr. '71 Rev. Brian B. Frain, S.J., and Christine Licata-Culhane '67, EDD.

Resolved, that the following officers be elected to a one-year term effective July 1, 2013: Chair, Edward Burke Carey '69; Vice Chair, Ben K. Wells, MBA '82; Secretary, Erica C. Sammarco '00; and Treasurer, Patrick E. Richey.

**Academics
Committee
Resolution**

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution that empowers the President to confer degrees upon on those undergraduate and graduate students proposed and so certified at commencement ceremonies on May 15 and May 18, 2013.

The Board also unanimously approved revisions to the Faculty Handbook as prepared and presented by the Faculty Senate.

**Update on the
Strategic Assessment**

Mr. Hurley gave a presentation on the status of the academic program review, non-academic program review, and enrollment/retention initiatives that have been undertaken to respond to the recommendations outlined in the Pappas Consulting Group study. Progress has been made on all fronts. Efforts implemented in 2012-13, coupled with new initiatives proposed to impact the 2013-14 fiscal year, total nearly \$3.5 million in expense reductions.

**Academics
Committee**

Dr. Christine Licata-Culhane reported that the Academics Committee heard a presentation on enrollment marketing plans from Mollie Ballaro, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Dr. Margaret McCarthy, Executive Director of Graduate Admissions, and Bob Hill, Director of Marketing. They have implemented a number of effective strategies to drive enrollment. The committee also discussed Canisius' primary markets for recruitment, as well as the allocation of marketing resources. Mr. Hill discussed the branding campaign and the results of an initial survey to high school students. Of the respondents, 92% said the underlying message of the branding campaign was "appealing" or "very appealing." The committee discussed future measures to highlight the strengths of Canisius' academic programs, student outcomes, examples of transformative learning, Jesuit values, and service to the community.

The committee reviewed the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) reaccreditation process with Drs. Patricia Coward and David Devereux, Co-Chairs of the Self-Study Steering Committee, and Dr. Guy Gessner, Chair of the Accreditation Oversight Committee. The MSCHE liaison, Dr. Ellie Fogarty, was on campus last month for a preliminary meeting and was impressed by the number of people involved in the process and the proactive approach the college has taken with the Pappas study and the strategic assessment. Of concern were the number of senior leadership positions in transition, the lack of assessment data on the core curriculum, and the limited evidence of links between planning, assessment and budgeting.

The committee also discussed Dr. Richard Wall's memo to faculty requesting input on the development of an equitable process for the allocation of financial resources for scholarly travel, course loads, and stipends to support the educational mission of the college. Dr. Licata-Culhane also recognized Drs. Jerome Neuner and Antone "Joe" Alber for their years of service to Canisius and wished them well in their retirement.

Audit Committee

Donald Lynch reported that the committee reviewed the schedule for the 2013-14 audit. An engagement letter with Deloitte and Touche will be signed within the next couple of weeks.

**Finance and Facilities
Committee**

Kenneth Myszka reported that the committee reviewed the proposed 2013-14 budget in detail and supported the budget resolution. He said that the performance of the endowment is strong and currently valued at \$96 million. The committee also reviewed Moody's Investors Services 2013 report, which affirmed the Canisius' Baa2 credit rating, but revised its outlook from stable to negative. Moody's cited the college's history of consistent surpluses, the administration's plan for the strategic assessment, and philanthropic support for Canisius as strengths. Issuance of the negative outlook is consistent with national trends and reflective of the college's dependence on tuition in a price sensitive market, the number of lower-priced competitors locally, and challenges of increasing net tuition revenue. The committee agreed that retaining the college's credit rating in this environment was a very good result.

**Institutional
Advancement
Committee**

Nelson Civello reported that Institutional Advancement is concluding its year-end push for the Canisius Fund. It is 94% to goal and there is a strong focus on growing the Leadership Society. Mr. Civello said there is 100% participation among the Board in the Leadership Society. Looking ahead, the team will focus on new strategies to increase gifts to the endowment, grow the number of donors to the Canisius Fund, and secure major and planned gifts that are budget relieving to support the goals of the strategic assessment. Canisius intends to retain Legacy Leaders, an independent firm that specializes in bequests, to conduct an analysis of our donor base. Mr. Civello reported that they received a presentation on the development of the Library Learning Commons. More than \$1.1 million has been raised to date to initiate phase 1 of the renovations, which are scheduled to begin this summer. Mr. Civello said the Regents Ball was a great success with 560 people in attendance. The Alumni Reunion is planned for May 31 – June 2.

Mission & Identity

Mary Grace Diehl reported that the committee heard a report on the Office of Mission and Identity's three major areas of focus: the Cura Personalis Project, preparation for the MSCHE reaccreditation, and long-range strategic planning. The committee also heard a presentation from Sr. Patricia Brady, Director of Community-Based Learning. Service-learning is incorporated into 40-70 courses each semester and is an important and effective method for bridging academics with service. The committee reviewed the results of AJCU's national survey of Jesuit college and university trustees on mission and identity. Canisius' results indicated that trustees have less understanding of Jesuit mission and identity compared with national peers. Rev. Michael Tunney, S.J. cited the relative nascence of a dedicated office at Canisius to advance mission and identity matters as a factor contributing to this result. The committee then discussed various opportunities to advance the trustees' knowledge and more deeply engage the Board with Ignatian spirituality and Jesuit mission and traditions.

**Student Life
Committee**

Rev. Joseph Costantino, S.J. reported that the committee heard reflections from four graduating seniors on their experiences at Canisius over the past four years. The college's Jesuit mission and identity and a sense that Canisius educated the whole person were common themes among their remarks. The committee also heard from students that they would like to see more faculty involvement in student clubs and to have more dedicated space for student common areas. The committee discussed the limitations of the existing Student Center and discussed some ideas to create more student gathering and lounge space. The committee heard that the semester-end celebration, Spring Fest, was a success. Fr. Costantino thanked Dr. Ellen Conley for her service to Canisius as she prepares to retire and welcomed Dr. Terri Mangione to the role.

**Trusteeship
Committee**

Rocco J. Maggiotto discussed the draft of the Board Effectiveness Survey. He announced that a web-link would be distributed to all current and departing Trustees following the meeting and requested that all responses be submitted by the end of the month. The Board will participate in a facilitated retreat in October. Trustees expressed interest in an educational program that facilitates the Board's understanding of the broad issues facing higher education and opportunities to engage directly with Canisius faculty. Mr. Maggiotto requested that the Board hold October 20 and 21, 2013 for the retreat.

Future Meetings**2013-14 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule**

- October 20-21, 2013 (Retreat)
- December 9, 2013
- February 24, 2014 (note new date)
- May 5, 2014

Erica C. Sammarco, Secretary