



Vol. 20, No. 2 December 9, 2013

President's Report

President Hurley welcomed Marco Benedetti as the college's new Vice President for Business and Finance and reported that he was very pleased to appoint Dr. Terri Mangione as permanent Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students. He said that the Strategic Assessment is a major priority for the senior leadership team and that they are making progress. Mr. Benedetti is currently working on developing a three-year budget projection. Dr. Richard Wall has initiated the academic program review process through the Academic Program Board and with substantial faculty input. The reviews will commence next semester. The Retention Task Force has issued a mid-year report and will begin to act on some of the recommendations outlined. Mr. Hurley also reported that the Task Force on Intercollegiate Athletics, comprised of faculty and staff, has submitted a financial analysis of athletic programs. The report reveals that there appears to be significant net tuition revenue generated from athletics and that there does not appear to be any benefit to moving to a Division 3 athletic program. The administrative program review, led by James Beardi, is ongoing and will focus on actions that will generate savings and revenue in the operating budget. Mr. Hurley said that revisions to several programs and policies implemented as a result of the program review earlier this year have led to a reduction in expenses and improved efficiencies.

Mr. Hurley reported that administrative searches are underway for the vice presidential positions in Institutional Advancement and Enrollment Management. He said that he expects that the search committees will have a slate of candidates to review by the end of January. In Athletics, Mr. Hurley said that men's cross country finished in 16th place at the NCAA Northeast Regionals, the team's best finish since 2002, and the women finished in 27th, tying the best performance since 2007. He is currently evaluating a proposal to expand track and field for distance running. Mr. Hurley also reported that the college's investment in women's crew is generating about \$400,000 in net tuition revenue. Mr. Hurley updated the Board on the status of the wage negotiations with the SEIU. Mr. Hurley said that it must be a priority for the college to position itself to offer salary increases for all Canisius faculty and staff. Finally, Mr. Hurley said that he attended the Provincial's meeting last month and there is great enthusiasm for the merger of the New York, New England and Maryland Jesuit Provinces. At the next meeting, the Board Chairs of the schools will be invited to participate in a future meeting of the provincials.

Report from the Retention Task Force

Dr. Mangione and Dr. Margaret McCarthy, Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, gave a report on the progress of the Retention Task Force. They identified the main causes for attrition and outlined a series of seven recommendations designed to address the weaknesses in retention. The Task Force and its subcommittees will reorganize themselves around these action items and develop a final report and plan by June 2014 for implementation next fall.

Academics Committee Resolution

The Board approved a resolution authorizing Canisius to submit a petition to the Regents of the University of the State of New York to amend Canisius' charter upon approval of the college's application to grant doctoral degrees in the field of counselor education.

Academics Committee

Dr. James Sherwood reported that the Academics Committee reviewed progress on the Middle States Commission on Higher Education self-study process and emphasized the urgency for addressing gaps in the Core Curriculum assessment. The committee also heard an update on the Academic Program Board's academic program review process and is pleased with the effective use of data. The committee discussed recruitment and retention and expressed some concern about full-time undergraduate enrollment and graduate enrollment for the spring. Finally, the committee heard from Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Michael Noonan, who described ongoing efforts to clarify shared governance with the administration.

Audit Committee	Mr. Ben K. Wells reported that field work has concluded and that the college is seeking waivers from bond insurers. Final audited financial statements are expected in January when the waivers are finalized.
Finance and Facilities Committee	Mr. Michael A. Ervolina reported that the committee reviewed financial statement, employment totals and expense reductions. The committee also discussed capital projects. The college will go out to bid this month for the next phase of renovations to the Library Learning Commons project. On behalf of the Investment Advisory Subcommittee, Mr. Ervolina reported that the college has changed investment consultants and is now working with Colonial Investment Management Co. Canisius reached a milestone on November 30 when the value of the endowment reached \$100 million.
Institutional Advancement Committee	Mr. John R. Connolly reported that the committee reviewed the progress of the Canisius Fund. It is 44% to goal and the division will make a significant push to increase participation and donations by the end of the calendar year. He reported on the status of Canisius' partnership with Legacy Leaders to increase bequests to the college. The firm has completed its focus group analyses and will begin soliciting prospective donors this spring. Mr. Connolly said that the Office of Alumni Engagement is implementing new programs to invigorate participation in the alumni chapters. He also reported that the Board of Regents is excited to honor Russ Brandon, President and CEO of the Buffalo Bills, with the Distinguished Citizen Award at the Regents Ball scheduled for May 3, 2014.
Mission & Identity	Hon. Mary Grace Diehl reported that the committee discussed opportunities to expand mission and identity programming across the campus and invited the Board to provide suggestions. The video series by Rev. Michael Tunney, S.J. is among the new initiatives aimed at accomplishing this goal. She also invited the Board to submit recommendations to the committee as it begins to draft a formal committee charge.
Student Life Committee	Mr. Lawrence J. Vilardo said that the committee focused its discussion on the student life factors that impact retention. The committee invited students to participate in the meeting to tell them about their personal experiences and to offer their opinions about activities that could positively impact retention.
Trusteeship Committee	Mr. Hurley presented the results of the Board of Trustees Effectiveness Survey and outlined a number of action items under consideration. Mr. Rocco J. Maggiotto reported that the committee is continuing to discuss opportunities to enhance engagement among Trustees, Regents, and consultants at committee meetings and will submit a proposal to the Executive Committee at a future meeting for consideration. He also reported on the status of the new trustee selection process. Rev. Louis Garaventa, S.J. has unfortunately decided to resign from the Board due to health concerns. The Board will need to fill three Jesuit vacancies and up to three other seats. All members of the Board are encouraged to submit nominations as soon as possible.
Future Meetings and Events	<p>2013-14 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 24, 2014 • May 5, 2014 <p>Board of Regents Scholarship Ball</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 3, 2013 <p>Commencement Exercises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate Ceremony: May 14, 2014 • Undergraduate Ceremony: May 17, 2014

Erica C. Sammarco, Secretary