



Vol. 21, No. 2 December 8, 2014

### President's Report

President Hurley read from a personal reflection from Mary Maroney '14, who accompanied a Campus Ministry trip to Nicaragua this past summer and is now a teacher in the Cristo Rey school in Chicago. She related how her education at Canisius, particularly the college's emphasis on social justice, had prepared her well to make a difference in the lives of the students she teaches each day. Mr. Hurley reported on his experience in leading a delegation that visited the Universidad Centroamericana in El Salvador for events commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the martyrdom of the Jesuits. The delegation spent time with Sr. Peggy O'Neil HON'12, director of the Center for Art and Peace in El Salvador, and he said the entire experience reaffirmed what it means to educate students for social justice in the world. In lieu of Christmas gifts, Mr. and Mrs. Hurley made a gift in the Board's name to Sr. Peggy's organization.

Mr. Hurley discussed the events surrounding the opening of the HarborCenter and was proud of the men's hockey team's performance against Ohio State in their inaugural game at the new center. He said that the new facilities and the quality of the college's program puts Canisius on the map. Mr. Hurley discussed the college's response to the November snow storm. Make-up classes were offered and he said the event demonstrated that the college needs to develop a more sophisticated plan to respond to these types of events. Mr. Hurley reported on the positive response to the salary increase for non-exempt employees and thanked faculty on the College Budget Committee for their decision to support some of the college's lowest paid employees. He reported that he has been thoroughly engaged in the Middle States reaccreditation process and is pleased with the recent progress. Finally, he reported that the search for the next vice president for academic affairs is progressing. Finalists have been identified and will be on campus in mid-January for interviews.

### Academics Committee

Ms. Kathleen Davis, vice president for enrollment management, reported on recruiting and financial aid strategic planning initiatives. She reported increases in undergraduate applications, admits, and deposits to date and is cautiously optimistic. There has been some increase in applications from Erie County. Dr. Richard Wall reported on the status and timeline of the Middle States self-study. The Academics Committee will take up a more in-depth conversation about the current draft later in the month. Ms. Anne Marie Dobies reported on the development and functionality of the newly formed Griff Center for Academic Engagement. Dr. Matthew Hertz shared retention statistics and discussed data that will be monitored to identify trends. The 2014 fall to fall retention rate is 86% (which appears to be a record for the college over the past 30 years) and preliminary outcomes of initiatives in ENG 100 and BIO 111 appear positive. Dr. Michael Noonan reported on the Faculty Senate concerns and priorities.

### Finance & Facilities Committee Report and Resolutions

Mr. Michael A. Ervolina reported that the committee reviewed current year-to-date financial results and said both revenue and expenditures are running slightly below budget. He reported that non-exempt, hourly personnel received a salary increase last month. Mr. Ervolina also reported that security improvements to the parking ramp were completed. Card access is now required for stairwells, and fencing and a second floor guard station were installed. The committee also reviewed the five year financial plan, which was also presented to the full Board. Marco Benedetti, vice president for business and finance, detailed the range of assumptions and other considerations that impact the plan. He said the plan forecasts an operating surplus in FY 2017. Kathleen Davis, presented a recommendation for a 2% tuition increase for Fall 2015. She reviewed the analysis conducted that led to the recommended increase. It is a key component of the strategic plan to stabilize the headcount, incrementally increase academic quality, incrementally decrease the discount rate, and generate more net total revenue. The following resolution was presented and unanimously approved:

*Resolved*, that the Board of Trustees approves the following guidelines for the 2015-16 operating budget to be submitted to the Board for approval at its May 2015 meeting:

full-time undergraduate tuition of \$33,283, an increase of \$653 or 2.0%, and room and board of \$12,765 for the most common plan, an increase of \$250 or 2.0%.

**Institutional  
Advancement  
Committee**

The Institutional Advancement committee discussed the division's results year to date for both the Canisius Fund and major gift fundraising; both are tracking ahead of numbers from this time last year. The 2015 Regents Ball will be held Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt Regency, where Canisius will present the Distinguished Citizen Award to Scott Bieler, President and CEO of West Herr Automotive Group. Matthew Wojick, associate vice president for marketing and communication, presented an update on the communication and creative services departments and plans to strengthen the college's branding. Mark Manuele, president of the Alumni Association Board, shared the alumni engagement department's progress toward re-engaging alumni in Chicago, Washington DC, and New York City and developing relationships with new segments of students through collaborations with the Griff Center.

**Investment Advisory  
Subcommittee**

Lee Wortham, chair of the Investment Advisory Subcommittee, gave a presentation on the status of the college's endowment and provided an overview of the committee's investment policies and investment management decisions. The college is presently working with Colonial Consulting to manage the endowment, which was valued at \$107 million on October 31, 2014.

**Mission & Identity  
Committee and  
Resolution**

The committee heard reports from Rev. Michael Tunney, S.J. on activities in the Community-Based Learning and Mission & Identity Offices and from Richard Shick, Dean of the Wehle School of Business on mission initiatives in that school. The committee discussed ideas for furthering our Catholic, Jesuit mission and values in our academic programs. A discussion on a set of proposed readings for trustee mission formation followed. The committee offered a number of thoughts on furthering trustees' understanding and engagement with mission during and in between trustee meetings.

**Student Life  
Committee**

The Student Life Committee heard a report from John Solak, President of the Undergraduate Student Association (USA), who described proposed renovations to Iggy's and plans to add beer and wine to the existing food service there. A tentative opening is scheduled for January 15, 2015. Mr. Solak also discussed a USA proposal to add small fitness rooms to Bosch and Dugan and enhance the existing fitness rooms in Bosch, Village Townhouses, Delevan Town Houses and the Koessler Athletic Center. He also reported on a new plan developed with Institutional Advancement to engage students in philanthropy. The committee heard reflections on the first semester from freshman Alexis Grebenok '18. Sarah Signorino, associate campus minister, Michael Hayes, director of campus ministry, and Terri Mangione, vice president for student affairs and dean of students reported on the events commemorating the Jesuit martyrs in El Salvador. Dr. Mangione also provided the committee with an update on final federal guidance regarding the amendments to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Clery Act.

**Future Meetings and  
Events**

**2014-15 Board of Trustees Upcoming Meetings**

- February 23, 2015
- May 4, 2015

**Regents Ball**

- May 9, 2015

**Commencement Activities**

- Graduate Ceremony: May 13, 2015
- Undergraduate Ceremony: May 16, 2015

**Erica C. Sammarco, Secretary**