



Vol. 21, No. 3 February 23, 2015

### President's Report

President Hurley expressed appreciation to the Canisius facilities staff for their work to keep the campus operating during the extreme cold and snow this winter. He reported that Dr. Margaret C. McCarthy has been selected as the next Vice President for Academic Affairs and thanked the search committee for their work. Dr. McCarthy will need to fill the vacancy in the associate vice president for academic affairs position and begin the process for identifying permanent replacements for the dean positions in the Wehle School of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Mr. Hurley reported on a special meeting of eight member institutions of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), in which Canisius participated, that focused on possible collaborations among the schools. Mr. Hurley said there is interest and support for these opportunities and several AJCU conferences will take up this topic for further discussion in the future. Mr. Hurley also reported that the AJCU Board Chairs meeting will be held at Loyola University, New Orleans March 4-5. Edward Carey will attend and Mr. Hurley will also participate as a resource to the Board Chairs.

Mr. Hurley gave an update on the sexual harassment case under investigation by the Office of Civil Rights. He said the college is fully cooperating with the review and is confident that Canisius' processes follow the law. He also clarified that the OCR review is focused on the college's internal processes and the outcome of their review will not lead to a different decision in the case that led to the investigation.

Mr. Hurley reported that the Middle States Self-Study has been submitted and that the visiting team will arrive on campus on March 22 for three days. Constituents across the college, including trustees, will be involved in their evaluation.

Mr. Hurley congratulated Canisius' Chartered Financial Analyst research challenge team for its fifth straight win. He also reported that the men's hockey team is in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the conference and that the men's basketball team is doing well. He acknowledged Jim Barron for the great work with the young men's team.

### 2015 Honorary Degree Recipients

The Executive Committee presented a resolution to confer an honorary degree upon legendary Civil Rights activist, Rev. C.T. Vivian, who played a prominent role in a number of demonstrations, including the Selma Movement. The resolution passed unanimously. Previously approved to receive honorary doctorate degrees are: Catherine M. Burzik '72, undergraduate commencement speaker, biotechnology business leader, and former Canisius Board Chair; Robert and Melinda Rich, graduate commencement speakers and chair and vice chair, respectively, of Rich Products Corporation; Rev. David Hollenbach, S.J., professor of theology at Boston College; and Hon. William M. Skretny '66, chief U.S. District Judge for the Western District of New York.

### Strategic Planning

Mr. Hurley gave a presentation on strategic planning at the college. He provided the board with an overview of the college's progress on the current strategic plan, *A Transformational Education*, approved by the Board in May 2011. He described how the plan was modified, in part, as a result of initiatives undertaken as a result of the strategic assessment completed by the Pappas Group in 2012. He reviewed with the board a Strategic Plan Priorities Map, which attempted to link the Transformational Education goals and objectives, the strategic assessment initiatives, the Middle States Self-Study recommendations and the vision statements laid out in his president's convocation address last fall. These will form the basis of the college's next strategic plan, which Mr. Hurley would like to complete during the 2015-16 academic year.

### Academics Committee

Dr. Christine Licata-Culhane reported that the Academics Committee reviewed the Middle States self-study process and recommendations. She complimented the college on the successful preparation of the report and the integration committees' feedback. She said the committee reviewed the Academic Program Review process of the Academic Program Board (APB), discussed the metrics used for the departmental reports, and discussed opportunities to enhance them in the future. The committee is pleased that the APB

process is integrated with the College Budget Committee and Strategic Planning Committee's work. She also said that Dr. Michael Noonan gave a report on behalf of the Faculty Senate. He said faculty are pleased about the progress of initiatives implemented to advance shared governance and also shared the results of a survey on faculty morale. He reported that, while morale was low, it had not fallen further compared to previous years. He said he expects that morale would be improved by salary increases.

**Audit Committee**

Mr. Ben Wells said that the committee reviewed the draft IRS 990 form and the 12/31/14 interim financial statement. The committee has reviewed the Independent Director Questionnaires and determined complete independence by the Audit Committee. He said conflicts of interest statements have been completed by the Board and senior college administrators and that the committee will conduct a review of disclosures. The committee reviewed current litigation cases and determined that financial impacts are negligible. Mr. Wells also reported that a compliance committee that would report into audit committee is in formation to oversee regulatory commitments, contracts and risk.

**Finance & Facilities Committee Report**

Mr. Michael Ervolina reported that the committee reviewed interim financial statements and that, while tuition revenue is tracking slightly below budget, the shortfall has been offset by increased residence hall revenue. He said the 2015 deficit is projected to be lower than anticipated as a result of the residence hall lease agreement with Buffalo State College and that preliminary enrollment figures for 2015-16 appear to be positive. The committee heard a report from Mr. Lee Wortham on the college's endowment, which is now valued at \$106 million. Mr. Ervolina said the committee had a preliminary discussion of possible refinancing of some of the college's outstanding bonds at lower rates, a move that would eliminate the need for bond insurers.

**Institutional Advancement Committee**

Mr. John Connolly reported that the Institutional Advancement division is entering a planning phase for a \$34 million capital campaign to complete Science Hall. He said that, to date, \$6.1 million in new gifts to the college have been received, which is \$1 million higher than last year at this time. He also reported that the committee reviewed the brand marketing strategy that is under development.

**Mission & Identity Committee**

Dr. Teresa Amabile reported that Dr. Jeff Lindauer, Dean of the School of Education and Human Services reported on programs reflect the college's mission and identity, including initiatives with high-need urban schools and through the Institute for Autism Research. The committee expressed interest in examining the myriad ways in which social justice is realized in the college's academic and service programs. They discussed the possibility of developing a justice initiative around specific areas of need in the community, including opportunities with the Buffalo Public Schools and the growing refugee population.

**Student Life Committee**

Fr. Rocco Danzi, S.J. reported that the committee heard reports from transfer students, including a non-traditional veteran student, about their experiences. John Solak, President of the Undergraduate Student Association (USA), reported to the committee on a mental health awareness campaign that will be initiated in collaboration with other student government associations in the area. The committee also reviewed the results of campus climate survey focused on the experience of ALANA students and discussed issues related to campus diversity.

**Trusteeship Committee**

Dr. Richard Gilbert reported that the committee identified a short-list of candidates whom Mr. Hurley will approach to ascertain their interest in accepting a board position. Mr. Hurley is also coordinating with Jesuit sources to identify two Jesuit board members. He said that the committee recommends that the board carry two vacancies to balance the membership rotation. The committee has been working to identify prospective candidates that can diversify the board.

**Future Meetings and Events**

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

- May 4, 2015

**Regents Ball**

- May 9, 2015

**Commencement Activities**

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

Erica C. Sammarco, Secretary