

Vol. 21, No. 4 May 4, 2015

### President's Report

President Hurley reported that the visiting team representing the Middle States Commission on Higher Education completed its visit to Canisius in March. The team delivered its preliminary report and found that the college met all 14 standards required for reaccreditation. Mr. Hurley recognized the hard work and collaborative efforts of the entire campus community for contributing to this positive result.

Mr. Hurley also praised other recent accomplishments of Canisius students and alumni. Students from the Golden Griffin Fund won the Chartered Financial Analyst Institute Research Challenge Global Finals and alumnus Adam Zyglis '04 was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in editorial cartooning. Mr. Hurley also commended the college's public relations staff for Canisius' increased visibility in local publications. Mr. Hurley said the Board of Regents will present Scott Bieler, president of West Herr Automotive Group, with its Distinguished Citizen Achievement Award at the Regents Scholarship Ball on Saturday, May 9. For the first time in the event's history, the Ball is sold out and is predicted to bring in record-breaking funds for scholarships. Mr. Hurley reported that investigators from the Office of Civil Rights visited campus to conduct public listening sessions on April 28. The investigation on the complaint is still ongoing and the college will fully cooperate in the process.

Mr. Hurley reviewed campus improvements planned for the summer. Air conditioning is in the process of being installed at the Koessler Athletic Center and should be complete in time for commencement activities. Phase three of library renovations will also take place this summer. This phase will complete the renovation of the main floor of the building and will re-open for campus use in August.

### Election of Trustees and Officers

The Committee on Trusteeship presented resolutions to elect trustees and officers to the Board. The following individuals were nominated to serve their first three-year term on the Board of Trustees effective July 1, 2015:

- Sylvia Bennett, Vice President of Marketing and Development at WNED
- Martin J. Berardi, retired Moog Inc. executive and CEO of Schutte-Buffalo Hammermill
- Rev. David Ciancimino, S.J., incoming President of Canisius High School
- Mark J. Czarnecki '91MBA, President of M&T Bank;
- Thomas R. Emmerling '75, Managing Partner of Dopkins
- Rev. Philip Florio, S.J., Pastor of Old St. Joseph's Church in Philadelphia
- Cynthia Vance, Certified Financial Planner with Jensen, Marks, Langer & Vance, LLC.

The following trustees are concluding their first three-year term of service on the Board and were nominated to serve a second, three-year term effective July 1, 2015: Teresa M. Amabile '72; Edward Burke Carey '69; Michael A. Ervolina Jr. '79; Ronald A. Raccuia '90; James E. Sherwood '68; and Lawrence J. Vilaro '78. The following officers were nominated to a one year term effective July 1, 2015: Chair, Edward Burke Carey '69; Vice Chair, Christine Licata-Culhane '67; Secretary, Erica C. Sammarco '00; and Treasurer, Marco F. Benedetti. The resolutions were unanimously passed.

### Strategic Planning

Mr. Hurley discussed the process for the development of the next strategic plan for the college. Over the coming year, members of the Board and the Canisius community will review the college's mission statement and discuss critical questions through a broad-based "Vision Project" to inform the development of a new vision for Canisius. The next strategic plan must address the recommendations from the Middle States report and the college's strategic assessment, as well as the vision laid out in the 2014 President's Convocation. The Board is hopeful that a vision statement and a new set of strategic goals can be drafted and vetted by May 2016. The Board also discussed holding a retreat at the October meeting to focus on this process.

### Academics Committee Report and Resolution

The Academics Committee discussed the Middle States draft report. Dr. Margaret McCarthy reviewed the suggestions and recommendations in the draft in relation to the college's self-study. There was general agreement that the draft report was positive and that it praised the comprehensive and collaborative efforts of the college community. Dr. Richard Wall gave a presentation of the detailed processes and program review of the Academic Program Board derived from departmental reports on program mission, faculty,

student outcomes, and budget planning. The committee also reviewed data metrics from academic programs. Ms. Kathleen Davis reported on the current status of freshmen deposits against enrollment targets. Dr. Michael Noonan, Chair of the Faculty Senate, reported on collaborations between administration and faculty on matters such as the Faculty Resource Program, shared governance, and proposed revisions to the Faculty Handbook. At the full board meeting, the Academics Committee presented a resolution authorizing the college to confer graduate and undergraduate degrees upon those proposed and so certified at the commencement exercises on May 13 and May 16, 2015. The resolution as unanimously passed.

#### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee reviewed the current financial statements and heard a report from Mr. Larry Deni, Interim Chief Information Officer, on the college's cyber security measures. The committee ratified the appointment of Deloitte & Touche as the college's independent auditors for 2015.

#### **Finance & Facilities Committee Report and Resolutions**

The Finance and Facilities Committee reviewed the current financial statements and heard a report on enrollment trends from Ms. Davis. The committee discussed the guidelines for the operating and capital budgets for 2015-16. The guidelines included a 2% raise pool for faculty and administrators, a 5% spending rate from the college's endowment for the operating budget, and an appropriation of an amount not to exceed \$1.8 million from the college's accumulated surplus to supplement the operating budget revenues. The committee reviewed and approved \$5.5 million in capital improvement projects for next year, including the completion of the first floor renovation project in the library. A resolution on these items was unanimously approved by the full Board. The committee also discussed a strategy to refinance \$37.5 million of the college's outstanding bond debt. The Board's Executive Committee was delegated to review final loan documents and pass any other resolutions required to close on the refinancing. A resolution on the terms and conditions of the refinancing strategy was presented to the full board and unanimously adopted. The committee received an update from the investment advisory subcommittee and reviewed the performance of the college's endowment portfolio, which was valued at \$109 million on March 31, 2015.

#### **Institutional Advancement and Student Life Committees Joint Meeting**

The Institutional Advancement and Student Life Committees met together to listen to the experiences of three graduating seniors. Mr. William Collins reported that the Canisius Fund is on track to meet its \$2.8 million goal by May 31<sup>st</sup>. He also reported that the 2015 Regents Ball, honoring Scott Bieler, is completely sold out and has the potential to be a record-setter for the college. The committee heard a report from Mr. Matthew Wojick, Associate VP for Marketing & Communications, who shared that the branding initiative is steadily making progress and that the college has retained an external company to revise the Canisius website. Mr. Glenn Weber, Director of Alumni Engagement, also gave a report on the strategic plan for the department. The meeting ended with a discussion the \$34 million fundraising initiative to complete Science Hall.

#### **Mission & Identity Committee**

Dr. Patricia Erickson, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences met with the committee and reported on how departments in the division promote the college's mission and identity through service-learning courses, local, national and international immersion programs, faculty involvement in co-curricular campus clubs, and faculty-student research collaborations. The committee continued its earlier discussions centered on integrating justice and student learning. Programs that link Canisius more deeply in the local community, shaping the next generation of leaders responding to issues of poverty, race, diversity, and conservation were noted. Committee members expressed a strong desire to bring this discussion to the full Board its retreat in the fall.

#### **Recognition of Departing Trustees**

The following members of the Board, whose terms of service will expire on June 20, 2015, were recognized for the excellent service and dedication to Canisius College:

- Nelson D. Civello '67
- Joseph M. Hassett '64
- Alfred F. Luhr, III '68
- Mark J. Manuele '92
- Rev. Joseph McShane, S.J.
- Acea M. Mosey '92
- Kenneth F. Myszka '70
- Ben K. Wells '82

#### **Upcoming Events**

**2015 Commencement Activities:** Graduate Ceremony: May 13 • Undergraduate Ceremony: May 16

**Erica C. Sammarco, Secretary**