



Vol. 17, No. 1 October 17, 2011

President's Report

President John J. Hurley reported the Fall 2011 enrollment statistics. There are 3,034 undergraduates enrolled, including 815 Freshman and 156 transfer students. The rate for freshman to sophomore year retention and enrollment figures for out-of-state and international students have all seen slight increases. The acceptance rate has decreased to 75%, indicating that the college is becoming slightly more selective. Residence hall occupancy is nearly 100%.

Challenges in the current operating budget arise from higher than expected financial aid expenditures for freshman and transfers and lower than projected enrollment in the graduate education programs. The vice presidents and budget supervisors are continuing to monitor the budget situation closely; however, Mr. Hurley advocated that the college proceed with a potential \$1 million budget gap that the administration will attempt to close over the course of the year. A number of processes are under development to ensure that communication and reporting are improved, that financial aid distributions are better planned and well-monitored, and that enrollment projections are forecasted more conservatively.

Mr. Hurley reviewed his 2010-2011 goals and introduced his goals for the current year. The Long Range Strategic Planning is continuing its work on the mission-critical priorities and unit and department plans are under development.

Canisius currently ranks 20th in the *US News and World Report* rankings of Best Regional Universities - North and is poised to move up in the list. The college has hired twenty-seven new faculty and filled two key administrative positions. Rev. Michael F. Tunney, S.J. has accepted the position of Director of Mission and Identity, and Robert Hill, formerly of Xavier University, is the new Director of Marketing for Canisius. Mr. Hurley reported that he attended a recent meeting of AJCU presidents and there is concern about potential cuts to federal Pell funding.

Finally, Mr. Hurley reported that several capital improvement projects, including the Main Street gateway, phase 1 of the Library Learning Commons, Science Hall, and the Hamlin Park Initiative, are making steady progress or are complete.

Commencement Speakers

The Board of Trustees approved a resolution inviting Sr. Margaret "Peggy" O'Neill, S.C, peace activist and founder of Centro Arte para la Paz in Suchitoto, El Salvador, to serve as the May 2012 Undergraduate Commencement Speaker and receive an honorary degree. The board approved a resolution to invite Donald K. Boswell, President and CEO of WNED-Buffalo, to serve as the May 2012 Graduate Commencement Speaker and receive an honorary degree. A resolution was also approved to invite Peter C. and Joan K. Andrews, philanthropists, Robert T. Brady, Chairman and CEO of Moog Inc., Brian Concannon, Director of the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, and Rick Jeanneret, Broadcaster for the Buffalo Sabres, to receive honorary degrees at the 2012 Commencement Exercises.

Simpson Scarborough Market Research

Jeff Papa, PhD., president of Simpson Scarborough, delivered a presentation on perception research their firm has conducted for Canisius. He reviewed their research method, data results, and a draft positioning statement. Additional information on their work and the next steps for brand marketing are forthcoming.

**Orientation of
New Trustees**

Six new trustees have joined the board: Rev. Michael G. Boughton, S.J.; Anthony B. Habib '95; Rocco J. Maggiotto '72, MBA '79; Joseph D. McDonald; Michael J. Montante '91; Rev. Leo J. O'Donovan, S.J.; and James P. Schofield MS '73. Prior to the full board meeting, an orientation session was held, in which presentations were given by Catherine Burzik, Mr. Hurley, Fr. Tunney, and members of the Executive Committee of the Board. New trustees were welcomed and introduced during the full board meeting.

Academics Committee

Christine Licata-Culhane, PhD, reported that the Academics Committee discussed recruitment, enrollment, financial aid, and retention matters. Maguire Associates, the college's new financial aid consultant, will provide improved analytics and services. Moving forward, there will be increased focus on increasing net tuition revenue and academic quality. The committee discussed the core curriculum and learned that the vast majority of students graduating in 2012 will have completed the new core. An assessment plan is under development. Rev. Michael F. Tunney, S.J. reported that mission and identity will be integrated into all areas of the college, including human resources, student life, and academic programs. An Online Education Task Force has been established by the president to recommend strategies and policies that guarantee quality and consistency of online education across the schools. The committee also reviewed issues of concern raised by the Faculty Senate.

Audit Committee

The committee reviewed the college's audited financial statements for the year ending May 31, 2011. Deloitte & Touche issued an unqualified opinion for Canisius. Because of the adoption of the New York Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act and the technical reclassification of a portion of the college's unrestricted endowment, Canisius did not meet all of its debt covenants at year end. However, the college is seeking waivers from the New York State Dormitory Authority that will allow Canisius to pursue a modification of its covenants with bond insurers. Financial statements will be approved by the Audit Committee when the waivers are finalized.

**Finance and
Facilities Committee**

Kenneth F. Myszka reported that the committee reviewed the college's draft audited financial statements and financial covenants compliance, as well as the billing report and financial benchmarks. The committee discussed modifications to the financial aid processes and the college's work to reduce the deficit. The committee also reviewed the capital budget projects and campus facility improvements. Mr. Myszka also reported that the Investment Advisory Committee invested \$4 million in the Dow Jones commodity index.

**Institutional
Advancement
Committee**

Ann Celani reported that \$83.4 million has been raised to date for the *Legacy of Leadership* campaign and Canisius is on track to meet its \$90 million goal by 5/31/2012. Since the campaign began, fundraising goals for three institutional priorities have been met, including the library, Canisius Fund, and endowed funds. On behalf of the Canisius Alumni Association, James Schofield reported on its planned activities for the coming year. Bill Maggio, member of the Board of Regents and chair of the rowing fund, announced that it has established a \$100,000 goal to support the college's new varsity Rowing Program. The committee discussed the Leadership Society and Ms. Celani emphasized the importance of full participation by the Board of Trustees in the fund. Finally, she described the new Admissions Ambassadors Program, a joint effort by the Admissions Office and Institutional Advancement to enhance alumni engagement and new student recruitment.

**Student Life
Committee**

Acea Mosey reported that the committee heard a report on the 2011 New Student Orientation. The program and training sessions for orientation leaders were modified to more closely align with the Catholic, Jesuit mission and identity of Canisius and with the Student Affairs Long Range Strategic Plan. Drs. Ellen Conley and Terri Mangione presented the updated Student Affairs Long Range Strategic Plan. Benjamin Macaluso, Undergraduate Student Association (USA) President, provided a review of the USA's activity to date and reported that their budget

committee had additional funds to award to clubs and organizations making requests. Ben also reported that responsibility of 17 Club Sports was transferred to the Canisius Athletics Department. The committee also reviewed budget reductions in the Student Affairs division. Mr. Macaluso noted that the students of the new class were of high quality and eager to get involved in campus activities.

**Trusteeship
Committee**

Ms. Burzik reported that Cal Darden had resigned from the board. Kenneth F. Myzka has replaced him as chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee. The Committee on Trusteeship will be meeting at the end of the month to begin recruiting new trustees for terms starting July 1, 2012.

Future Dates:

2011-2012 Board of Trustee Meetings

- **Monday, December 5, 2011**
- **Monday, March 12, 2012**
- **Monday, May 7, 2012**

Other Important Dates

- **Regents Ball – Saturday, May 5, 2012**
- **Graduate Commencement Ceremony – Wednesday, May 16, 2012**
- **Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony – Saturday, May 19, 2012**

Erica C. Sammarco, Secretary