Kevin Wm. Wildes, S.J.

President’s Report

11 November 2011

I hope you can discern, from this Report and the materials for the meeting, that there are many good things happening at the University. We continue to work to implement Loyola 2012. We are moving ahead with our search for a new Provost, the second phase of our master plan, the Faith in the Future campaign, and efforts to strengthen our mission, serve our current students and recruit new students.

1. Enrollment:

Undergraduate Admissions

Fall 2012 admissions activity is in line with fall 2011 activity, when we set an application record. As of this writing we have about 2500 first-year applications for the fall, which is the most we’ve ever had at this early point in the recruitment cycle. Sal Liberto will furnish an update on application activity in the Academic and Student Affairs committee. From this early stage in the process, we expect to meet our goals of enrolling 900 new first year students in the fall, and another 125 transfer students.

Certainly, when you’ve seen the application growth we have had in the last 4 years – 115% - we want to hold on to those gains and maintain that new level of demand. It appears that we have done just that as we recruit for fall 2012 and beyond. Our goal has always been to build a strong enrollment foundation, with great strategy that can deliver results year after year. In addition, we think the completion of Thomas Hall, the continued recovery of the city, and the ascending number of families visiting campus bodes very well for our future. As we have said, high undergraduate demand is an essential element of the strategic plan as it allows us to enroll diverse and talented classes, meet our budget targets, and shape our enrollment into strong cohorts that both persist at high levels and, in time, produce excellent graduate rates.

Retention and graduation rates remain a focal point and we believe our strategy is a good one. We continue to strengthen our programs on campus that increase student engagement and offer students opportunities to connect to advisors, professors, and staff - in all classes. The best retention programs understand that we must foster success and satisfaction in all aspects of a student’s experience to retain them and to increase their odds of graduation. Last year was a challenging one for our first-year students – both academically and financially – and many of our efforts have been focused on counseling them directly on how to overcome obstacles. We have launched a campaign to increase support for our first-generation college students by asking our first generation faculty and staff to share their stories to provide both direct and symbolic encouragement to our students who are attempting to be the first in their families to complete college.
**Financial Aid**

Because of our enrollment performance over the last four years, net tuition revenue has grown significantly, and has, by percentage of growth, beaten market averages. Like most universities, we have seen our discount rate (the ratio of financial aid to tuition revenue) increase slightly as we have worked to meet a larger percentage of student need in this era of state and federal cuts and high unemployment. Sixty-five percent of Loyola’s students receive need-based financial aid.

We have begun to look at how we can reduce the discount rate by slightly reducing our merit-based programs and continuing to strengthen our need-based funding. We are proud of our generosity toward our students and we know that they need our support to improve their chances of graduating from Loyola, so we will be very careful in how we work to improve this ratio over the next few years.

**Graduate Programs**

We have seen market gains in our graduate programs, especially in nursing and counseling, and our newly added criminal justice online program has enrolled at good rates, as well. We continue to market heavily our graduate programs to both current undergraduates and the wider marketplace and we expect opportunities in this area to continue to increase.

2. **Academic and Student Affairs:**

*Academic Affairs:*

**Provost Search**

Our search is underway. As I reported in October, I have appointed Jo Ann Cruz, current Dean of Humanities and Natural Sciences, to serve as Chair and the firm of Witt/Kieffer, a national academic search firm, is assisting in the search. A comprehensive, detailed leadership profile has been developed and we are now building the candidate pool. The leadership profile can be found at [http://academicaffairs.loyno.edu/provost-search-committee](http://academicaffairs.loyno.edu/provost-search-committee)

**Accreditation**

The School of Mass Communication and our forensic chemistry program are advancing in their respective applications for program accreditation. As I write this, an accreditation team from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education is conducting its site visit to accredit the Doctor of Nursing Program. In addition, our graduate counseling program is preparing for its regular eight-year reaccreditation by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling. Also, this year, the University is undergoing a five year review from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools which is our regional accrediting body.
Common Curriculum Implementation

All colleges are gearing up to begin the first phase of implementing our new Common Curriculum one year from now, in Fall 2012. Preparations include the development of new courses and revising existing courses to meet new requirements. The first phase next year will involve pilot testing new course offerings. Implementation of new science requirements will be phased in as new labs are completed in Monroe Hall.

Student Affairs

As I mentioned in my last Report, we are undergoing a complete review of athletics this year. I have asked for this review in part to meet the needs of our students. I have also asked for it, as I said in October, because there is a disconnect between the schools we compete against athletically and those we compete against academically (Admission, *US News*).

Andy Fellingham and Cynthia Linhart of Inter-Collegiate Athletic Consulting (ICAC) spent four days on campus in early October. During their initial visit, they conducted extensive interviews and/or made presentations to our steering committee, the President’s Cabinet, AA/SA Committee of the Board of Trustees, athletics and wellness staff, enrollment management team, other members of the faculty and staff, student-athletes, student government, and alumni. Mr. Fellingham also conducted phone interviews with several trustees. To date, ICAC has visited with approximately 150 members of the Loyola community. ICAC is currently reviewing data provided by the University and working on benchmarking that data comparable to our academic peer institutions, current conference members and targeted alternatives. Dr. Linhart will return to campus on November 10 to present to the Faculty Senate and conduct a lunch session that will be open to all faculty and staff members. She will also be available for interviews with the general student population on that date. Analysis of data and information and summarization of findings should be completed by the end of November. A findings meeting, to be scheduled shortly, will follow in December. Background materials will be sent out prior to the meeting.

I am proud and happy to mention that Cissy Petty has been elected to serve as president of JASPA (Jesuit Association of Student Personnel Administrators) which is a conference of AJCU (Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities).

3. Mission:

Sustaining Agreement

As you know we have been involved in a conversation with the Provincial of the New Orleans Province of the Jesuits Fr. Mark Lewis, S.J., and the Rector of the Loyola University Jesuit Community, Fr. Peter Rogers, S.J., in the drafting of a Sustaining Agreement between the University, the Province, and the Community. Both Frs. Lewis and Rogers have reviewed the current draft with their Consultors and approved it. I am asking the committee to review the
current draft and I will then send it to the Executive Committee with the hope that the Board can approve the agreement at our March meeting and it can sign it.

**Hiring for Mission**

A new M&M Faculty/Staff advisory committee has been established to review and improve the university’s ‘Hiring for Mission’ policy for new faculty & staff hires. The Chair is John Sebastian (English department). The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities is assisting us with resources.

**Loyola Week & Retreats**

We had a successful Loyola Week in early November. Special events included a keynote talk by Charlie Currie, S.J., former president of the AJCU, a ‘Devil’ piñata and Ignatian Carnival, ending with ‘Wolves on the Prowl,’ Loyola’s day of service for undergrads, faculty and staff and alumni chapters all over the United States.

There were a record number of students on the Fall Awakening retreat with over 110 retreatants participating.

**4. Finance and Administration:**

**2011-12 Financial:**

The University is still on target to generate a surplus of $100,000 as was reported at the October meeting of the Finance Committee and Board.

**2011 Bond Issue**

The bond premium yielded final gross proceeds of $128,452,000 from the sale of the $125,000,000 bond issue.

The University received a final net of $107,500,000 from the sale of the bonds. The funds are net of the bond premium, underwriter’s discount, bond issue costs and capitalized interest.

The bonds were sold with an all-in TIC (True Interest Cost) of 4.873% and the annual debt service is $8.770 million.

**2012-13 Budget:**

Our practice at Loyola is to present the Budget recommendations in two phases. The first phase is presented to the Trustees at the December Board meeting and involves the recommendation of Tuition and Fee rates, Room and Board rates, and Salary pool increases. My recommendations will be made based on the work of the University Budget Committee. The second phase will be presented at the May, 2012 meeting and include the remaining parts of the budget, accompanied by a fine-tuning of revenue and expense projections.
**Endowment Search:**

The Endowment committee sent request for proposals to eight firms and then narrowed the search to three firms. On November 8, the Endowment Committee met with these representatives from the three firms to select a Consultant to replace CSG. They selected LCG Associates headquartered in Atlanta. I want to thank Michael Hubbard, David Ferris, and Derby Gisclair.

**Construction Projects Update**

**Phase I**

At this writing Phase I of the Master Plan is essentially complete.

**Thomas Hall**

- Interior signage is currently being installed.
- A few punch list items are being completed.

**West Road Garage**

- One punch list item (replacing a door with correct hardware) is being completed.

**Dominican Law Clinic**

- A few minor punch list items remain.

All other Phase I projects are complete.

**Phase II**

Phase II will be a longer, and more complex undertaking than Phase I. The work on Monroe Hall, for example, will have to take place while the building is being used. The work on the residence halls will require us to work around housing timetables.

**Monroe Hall**

The contractor has mobilized and begun preparations for work. Pile driving is still on schedule to take place during the 2011 Christmas break.

- Installation of construction fencing is underway, and plans are being finalized for the rerouting of pedestrian traffic in and around the building.

**Cabra Hall**

- Planning remains on schedule, with construction set to begin in May, 2012.
Buddig Hall

- Some preliminary work will take place over the 2011 Christmas break. The architects are currently working on detailed phasing plans, with construction to begin in May, 2012.

Benson Jesuit Center

- Cost estimates from Faithful & Gould have been received, and options are being considered.

5. Institutional Advancement:

The Institutional Advancement Committee meeting will focus on (a) a status report of our 1st quarter FY 12 activities; (2) forthcoming Centennial activities, especially Founders Day weekend; (3) a discussion about the campaign and especially around campaign priorities and ways that the trustees can personally help ensure success in the achieving of the campaign’s fundraising objectives; and (4) a “spotlight” on the activities of the department of alumni relations.

The IA Committee will also meet jointly, at this meeting, with the Trusteeship Committee to discuss the role of the Trustees in Advancement and in recruiting future Trustees for the Board.

The Committee will also be presented with resolutions on the following professorships/scholarship:

Scholarship:
Coach Louis “Rags” Scheurmann Endowed Scholarship for First Generation Studies

Professorships:
The Rev. Emmett M. Bienvenu, S.J., Distinguished Professorship in Classical Studies
Augustus Elmer, Jr. Endowed Professorship in Chemistry
Patricia Carlin O’Keefe Distinguished Professorship in History

If approved by the committee they will be sent to the full Board for approval.

6. Government Relations:

Endowed Professorships Policy Recommendations

The Board of Regents staff has recently released recommended changes to the Endowed Professorships Program that would have severe adverse impacts to private colleges and universities across the state. Specifically, the staff recommends that all 10 private institutions compete for a total of 6 endowed professorships each year. Currently, each campus in the state, whether public or private, is guaranteed two professorships if that university has the matching funds available.
Tommy Screen, Bill Bishop, and Heidi Davis, our new Director of Grants and Research, are working together with officials from the other private institutions around the state to try and lobby members of the Board of Regents before they consider these policy changes at a January board meeting. I have recently written a letter to the Commissioner of Higher Education and each Board of Regents member asking that they reject these recommendations.

Tommy Screen may be reaching out to some of you who may have contacts with members of the Board of Regents to make calls on Loyola’s behalf. Kristine will have a list of the members of the Board of Regents for you. I ask that you review it and let Tommy know if you have a relationship with any of the members.

7. Evaluations:

I am continuing this year a practice that I initiated last year that of doing 360 degree reviews of my cabinet. Last year, as you recall, we did a 360 review on Jay, Ed, and Cissy. This year I am doing reviews on Sal Liberto, Ted Dziak, S.J., Bill Bishop, and Ross Matthews our Director of Human Resources.

8. Civic:

I continue to remain engaged with the Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region. And I continue to serve as a Commissioner of the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad. My hope is that the governance reform measures for the Railroad will be approved in the 19 November election and then the implementation will fall to the Mayor and City Council. And my service as a member of the Civil Service Commission continues and I will update you on that at our meeting.