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Convocation Remarks

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Across the United States, indeed around the world, colleges and universities are coming alive again. We gather in convocation to begin a new semester at Loyola and to renew the university. However, our renewal is not typical or ordinary as our city and region are also being renewed. The renewal of the university is happening because people—particularly faculty and staff—have worked very hard, in the midst of your own difficult circumstances, to help make this renewal possible. I am deeply grateful to everyone for their work, creativity, and ingenuity in helping Loyola face the challenges of the present and the future. Thank you. Without your hard work, creativity, dedication, and patience, we would not be in the strong position we are in today.

Today, I would like to recall, briefly, what we were able to accomplish last year, and set out some crucial tasks for this year.

I. Review of What We Have Done

1. Admissions: Undergraduate admissions were my top priority last year.

Last year, I presented to the Board of Trustees a three-year plan to rebuild undergraduate admissions. I believed that, using our business interruption settlement to offset losses, we could rebuild our undergraduate enrollment in

terms of numbers, quality, and diversity in a three-year period. For this year we targeted an incoming first year class of 600 students. I am delighted to report that this year's class is over 700 and the profile of the class is excellent.¹ We had an increase of more than 20 percent in undergraduate applications and we have an increase of 40 percent in students who enrolled. Thirty-seven percent of the class is students of color, the mean GPA for the class 3.74. Fifty percent come from states other than Louisiana and 30 percent are the first in their family to go to college.

I am very grateful to our admissions office, led by Lori Zawistowski, for the excellent work they did this past year. I also want to thank our financial aid staff for working so hard with our admitted students to meet their financial need. I am also grateful to Terry Fisher and her marketing staff for all of the support they gave to our undergraduate admissions efforts. Our success in admissions was due to the hard work and collaboration of these different offices.

2. Searches and Leadership:

My second goal last year was to complete the searches for academic and university leadership. As you recall, last year we were involved in a number of searches. I am delighted that they have been successfully concluded. So, as we begin our new year, we welcome Bill Locander, dean of the College of Business, Luis Mirón, dean of the College of Social Sciences, and, Dr. Ann Cary, director of our nursing program. In January, we will welcome Joann Moran Cruz as dean

of the College of Humanities and Natural Sciences. As many of you know, she has already been at work here this summer and will continue working with us this fall before she actually moves to campus. We also completed our search for new vice president of enrollment management. We welcome Sal Liberto to this position and to Loyola. And, we completed a search for a new vice president for finance and administration, Jay Calamia. Jay's move was a bit easier as he had only moved up one flight.

I am very grateful to everyone led the searches, Deans Brian Bromberger, Mary Lee Sweat, Ed Kvet, Cissy Petty, Mary Oriol, and Bill Barnett. And I want to thank the many people who served on each of the committees and Lisa Alexander and Gail Howard who staffed the different searches. I am also grateful to Dr Walter Harris for his leadership of Academic Affairs through this time of reorganization. I want to thank again Larry Lorenz, Jerry Dauterive, and Mary McCay, for their service, leadership, and generosity through this time of transition. Finally, I want to thank Ed Kvet for agreeing to serve as Provost. I look forward to his leadership of academic affairs and his work with the other vice presidents and offices of the university.

3. Finances:

As you know, we end our fiscal year on July 31. At this time, it is anticipated that the university will have a small surplus.

In regards to revenues, the university achieved a better-than-expected enrollment in summer classes taught here on campus, as well as in online courses. Our traditional summer school had a 15 percent increase in graduate credit hours and an approximate 33 percent increase in professional credit hours. The revenue produced in summer classes was significantly more than anticipated. We also had additional revenue realized due to better than expected revenue in auxiliary enterprises, interest earned on investments, gift income, and recoveries of direct and indirect cost.

The university expects to end the fiscal year with a surplus just under \$90,000. This also means that we do not have to use any of the business interruption insurance to balance our budget this year.

4. Facilities:

This past year we began to address major facilities issues facing the university. As I have said in the past, we need, and are developing, a long-term facilities plan which will be completed this year. Nevertheless, we also have to live day-to-day in the short run. So we have begun to address serious issues of deferred maintenance as well as work to improve the quality of life and work for faculty and students. In the here and now, we need to have facilities to attract students and to support us in our work with them. We have been able to accomplish these renovations by a careful fiscal discipline within our capital budget not our operational budget.

We have just about completed a renovation of the Danna Student Center. We hope that this renovation will help the center truly become a living campus center for the university. We have also completed renovations of the admissions offices in Marquette. We have done mundane things like clean the exterior of the library. Soon, we will paint the exterior of Greenville Hall. We have also addressed a number of deferred maintenance issues. And, we have invested in our classrooms. We now have two classrooms in Bobet that are two state-of-the-art classrooms. My plan is to use these classrooms and get feedback from faculty and students before we begin a systematic renovation of all of our classrooms. We are redoing four studios in the Music/Communications building that will serve music industry studies, mass communication, and the Monk Institute. We have completed work on the renovation of our chemistry labs. We have created a new teaching and learning center in the library and a learning lab in the Danna Student Center. At this point, over 80 percent of our classrooms have been upgraded with presentation equipment.²

I want to thank everyone who has helped in these projects. I especially want to thank Ann Moss and Paul Fleming for their work and leadership in getting things done. I also want to thank Kurt Birdwhistell for his tireless work on the chemistry lab project, Susan Brower for her work on instructional technology, and John Snyder for his work on the planning for the space in Music/Communications, and Cissy Petty for her energy and work on the renovation of the Danna Student Center.

5. Development:

This past fiscal year was another record year for our development efforts. We raised over \$11,500,000 in gifts and pledges and our number of donors increased again this past year. This is excellent, but we need to do better if we are to realize our potential in philanthropy and our dreams for the university.

6. Board Reorganization:

This past spring our Board of Trustees went through a self-study with the Association of Governing Boards. The result of that study was a reorganization of the board and its committees. We now have seven board committees, as opposed to the 13 we had before. I believe this reorganization will allow a greater integration of knowledge and planning and allow the board to be strategic in its work.

7. Government Relations:

As I am sure you are all aware, indeed just this summer, Congress finished work on the Higher Education Act (HEA), which the President signed last week.³

While there are many important parts to the HEA, one of the most important, for us, is the Education Disaster Loan Program. After nearly three years of lobbying our delegation and Congressional leaders, the Education Disaster Loan Program was included in the bill. Specifically, the legislation authorizes the Secretary of Education to establish a loan program that provides funds for long-term, low-interest guaranteed loans to institutions for losses incurred because of a federally

declared disaster. Now that the mechanism is set up, we will work with the other New Orleans universities to have the program funded. I believe that this program will be important to us as we move into the future I want to congratulate and thank Mr. Tommy Screen, my assistant for government relations, for his tireless work on our behalf on this program. He has worked, with his peers from other New Orleans universities, for three years to make this program a reality.

8. Quality of life:

You recall that last year I said that we would be committed to looking for ways to improve the quality of life for faculty and staff. We were able to do a number of things. We implemented the memberships for the University Sports Complex. We established the dining room for faculty and staff. We also revised a number of policies to improve the quality of life. For example, we revised the Tuition Remission Policy that now allows staff members to take up to one course during working hours. We revised the Parental Leave Policy by reinstating a four-week paid leave for new parents of either gender upon birth, adoption, or placement of a foster child. We also improved the Vacation Policy and the Extended Sick Leave Policy. I want to thank Ross Matthews, our director of human resources; Robert Gerlich, S.J., the chair of the University Senate; and Bret Jacobs, the chair of the Staff Senate for their help and leadership in all these efforts.

This year we will begin this year to develop and implement a plan to deal with salary compression issues. Also, I remain committed to finding ways to improve

the quality of life for faculty and staff. Therefore, I would encourage people who have ideas or suggestions to bring them forward.

II. Looking Forward

We have achieved much. And, we have much to celebrate. We should take the time to acknowledge the work that has been done and to celebrate those people who made it a reality. But, our work is far from done. Our work to renew the university and the city will continue in the year ahead.

In the year ahead, my own goals for this year are:

- 1) Work with the Provost and Cabinet on refining the current strategic plan by the end of the year. This refinement will include key elements of academic planning, student affairs planning, and facilities planning. This work will involve very fundamental questions about the size and mix of our programs, graduate, undergraduate, and professional. This work will entail the development of a systematic plan for faculty hiring, salary compression, and a reexamination of faculty teaching loads. All of these questions are interrelated and I will delegate them to the provost, the vice presidents and leadership of the staff and faculty. My key responsibility will be to keep the conversation moving and see that it is done by the end of the year.

- 2) A second goal for me is to work with the provost to keep the discussion of the Common Curriculum moving and move that conversation to completion.

- 3) Fundraising has to be my top priority in the years ahead. We have ambitious goals and dreams for the university and they can only be realized by the infusion of new capital. We also know that we have untapped resources. We not only need the infusion of capital, but we need to build a culture of philanthropy among our alumni and our benefactors. For the year ahead, I want to see an increase of 15 percent in our fundraising.

- 4) I will also continue my work on the Ethics Review Board for the city and as chair of the nominating committee for the State Ethics Board.

Tomorrow, I will chair a meeting of the Nominating Committee for the State Board of Ethics. That meeting will take place here on campus. I hope that when we finish the meeting we will be able to send a pool of qualified nominees to the governor and the legislature so they can fill the State Ethics Board and it can resume its work.

III. Conclusion

Throughout my remarks, I have mentioned a few people by name to say thank you. There is always a risk that you will leave out someone. And I am sure I have

made that mistake. But, I recall that for St. Ignatius, living with a spirit of gratitude was central. And, he insisted that we be concrete in naming our graces. Today, I have named just a few of our graces. It is a litany of gratitude: Larry Lorenz, Jerry Deauterive, Mary McCay, Mary Lee Sweat, Cissy Petty, Terry Fisher, Brian Bromberger, Walter Harris, Mary Oriol, John Snyder, Jay Calamia, Bill Locander, Sal Liberto, Luis Mirón, Joann Moran Cruz, Ross Matthews, Paul Fleming, Ann Moss, Susan Brower, Lisa Alexander, Henry Munoz, Tommy Screen, Gail Howard, Kris LeLong, Bret Jacobs, Bob Gerlich, S.J., and Ed Kvet. If this were a litany, the response after each name would be “Thank you.”

Renewal is work. To achieve a renewed New Orleans and a renewed Loyola University, it will take focus, work, and dedication. The work of renewal will meet with frustration and it will test our patience, good will, and charity. But, I believe, it is work worth doing and, if done well, will lead to a better, more humane city and a stronger, better university. The cover story of the Sunday *Magazine* of *The New York Times* this past weekend was about public education in New Orleans. The subtitle of the story was “The most ambitious education laboratory of our time.” I think the story was only part right. Education is not the only story in New Orleans. The story is every aspect of life in this city: health care, government, the arts, law, housing, and business. New Orleans may be the largest and the most complex social laboratory in the United States. It is hard to imagine a better, more exciting place to be a university—a community of learners—than in New Orleans.

Welcome to a new year in this challenging, exciting city!

Footnotes:

¹ **Loyola University New Orleans Class of 2012 Profile**

3,600 students applied for admission (2,974 last year)
62.8% acceptance rate (63.9% last year)
713 enrolling students (531 last year at this time; final first-year number was 503)

Key Statistics of Enrolling Students

37.1% students of color (37.7% last year)
90 African-American students (79 last year)
38 Asian (25 last year)
95 Hispanic (74 last year)
30% first generation (28.8% last year)
49.2% from outside Louisiana (54.2% last year)
77.7% applied online (73.5% last year)
17.7% applied using Common Application (18.9% last year)
42.8% male (44.9% last year)
5.9% from Jesuit high schools-43 students (7.6% last year – 41 students)

Academic Profile for the Class of 2012

Mean GPA:	3.74 (3.52 last year)
% from top 10%:	31.9% (26.3% last year)
% from top 25%:	59.4% (51.8% last year)
% from top 50%:	84.5% (82% last year)

Note only 251 students attend schools that rank (228 last year)

Mean SAT Verbal:	603 (607 last year)
Mid 50%	550-670 (540-680 last year)
Mean SAT Math	586 (574 last year)
Mid 50%	530-640 (530-640 last year)

Mean ACT score	25.71 (25.29 last year)
Mid 50%	23-28 (23-28 last year)

Top Feeder States

Louisiana: 365
Florida: 43
Texas: 31
Georgia: 22
California: 17
Missouri: 16
New York: 16

² **Update of Facility Projects in Progress & Recently Completed**

Academic Quad

- Plans for a sculpture garden, in connection with our participation in Prospect 1, are currently under architectural review.

Bovet Hall

- Rooms 216 and 221 received a major upgrade in both finish and technology.
- Rooms 450 and 445 were converted into a seminar room for the history department.
- Technology upgrades were completed in rooms 214, 217, and 219.
- Painting was done in rooms 320, 325, and 327.

Broadway Central Plant

- New boiler is on order, and preparatory work has begun for removal of old boiler.

Budding Hall

- Fire alarm upgrade has been completed.
- Extensive painting of bathrooms and suites has been completed.
- New, energy-efficient electronic ballasts and lamps were installed in all hallways.

Burke Memorial Vault

- Work is progressing on new transformer and switch equipment.

Carrollton Hall

- Seminar Rom 104 was converted to an office and a smaller seminar room.

Central Plant

- Repairs necessitated by an electrical equipment fire have been completed.

Communications/Music

- Four studios, as well as some adjoining classrooms, are being renovated for music industry studies/mass communication collaboration.
- Technology upgrades have been completed in rooms 324, 329, 403, 423, and 439.
- Plans for fire alarm upgrade are being finalized.
- New electrical transformer installation is underway.
- Painting has been completed in rooms 133, 308, and 165D

Danna Student Center

- Work is nearing completion on a major facelift to the building.

Greenville Hall

- Planning has been completed to renovate the boardroom into office space for institutional advancement.
- Painting of building exterior will begin shortly.

Law School

- Lightning protection upgrade has been completed.
- New electrical transformer has been ordered.

Marquette Hall

- Planning has begun on fire alarm upgrade.
- A facelift of the admissions area has been completed.
- Lightning protection upgrade has been completed.
- Replacement of transom and doorframe at second floor entrance has been completed.
- Several moves were completed in the executive suite and the area was repainted.

Mercy Hall

- Technology upgrades were completed in rooms 105, 201, and 305.

Miller Hall

- Technology upgrade was completed in room 112.
- Painting was completed in room 347 and the third floor lobby.

Monroe Hall

- By the time classes begin, renovation combining two chemistry labs into one larger lab with all new cabinetry, fume hoods, and workstations will be complete. A new seminar room, restroom, and office space were created. In addition, classroom 127 was renovated with all new audio/visual equipment and furniture. All renovations comply with current ADA regulations.
- Technology upgrades have been completed in nine classrooms.
- Lightning protection upgrade has been completed.
- Room 537 received new carpeting and paint.

Monroe Library

- Exterior cleaning and waterproofing is underway.
- Room 334 was renovated for new Teaching and Learning Center.

University Sports Complex

- Fire alarm upgrade is underway.
- Repairs and painting of the swimming pool structural support steel, as well as some cosmetic upgrades to the pool area, have been completed.

St. Mary's Hall

- Fire panel had been replaced, and plans are underway for complete system upgrade.
- Painting is in progress in rooms 117, 119, and lobby. The ceiling is also being replaced in 117.

Stallings Hall

- Exterior cleaning, waterproofing, and painting of window frames have begun.
- Four offices have been upgraded with paint, carpet, and some ceiling modification.

Holy Name of Jesus Church

- Work is progressing on replacement of the church air conditioning system, with completion scheduled for early fall.

³ *Summary of the major points in the final HEA bill:*

1. *Education Disaster Loan Program:* After nearly three years of lobbying our delegation and Congressional leaders, the Education Disaster Loan Program was included in the bill. Specifically, the legislation authorizes the Secretary of Education to establish a loan program that provides funds for long-term, low-interest guaranteed loans to institutions for losses incurred because of a federally declared disaster.
2. *College Costs Provisions:* The bill requires the Department of Education, beginning in 2011, to publish annual watch lists of institutions with the highest and lowest tuition, fees and net prices by sector, as well as a list of those with the largest percentage increase in net price over the previous three years. Institutions appearing on the "largest increase" watch list would be required to provide reports to the department on the causes of their increase. On the flip side, this legislation provides incentives for those institutions that

limit tuition increases for each group of incoming students in the form of extra Pell Grant aid for their students.

3. Accreditation: The Department is prohibited from dictating how colleges measure student learning for purposes of their accreditation. In addition, Colleges must publish their transfer of credit policies.
4. Textbooks: Publishers are required to sell their books in bundled and unbundled versions. In addition, Colleges must list the prices of required and recommended textbooks for each course on their online course schedules prior to registration deadlines. This provision goes into effect on July 1, 2010.
5. Pell Grants: Permits students to receive Pell grants year round and limits the maximum number of semesters one can receive the grants to 18.
6. Campus Safety: Requires an institution to develop procedures to notify the campus immediately in the event of an emergency; publicize an emergency response and evacuation procedures annually; and test emergency response and evacuation procedures.
7. Federal Student Aid Process: Streamlines the FAFSA application and the process by which students are awarded federal aid. In addition, the bill requires the department to make this information available to students and parents earlier in the process