Kevin Wm. Wildes, S.J.

President’s Report

18 November 2010

The day to day work of the University is focused on implementing *Loyola 2012*. This report will update you on general themes and will give you an overview of what you will find in your committee reports and the material in this book. Let me highlight some key points.

1. Enrollment

Fall 2011 undergraduate admissions activity is off to a good start with applications coming in about 18% ahead of last year at this time. You will recall that we have set records for undergraduate applications in each of the last two years and we expect to set another record for the institution this year. In a year where, nationwide, 29% of schools saw fewer applications than the previous year, our demand continues to climb appreciably, as measured by applications, visits to campus, event attendance, and measurable online activity. We are attracting very good students, and we are significantly increasing our out-of-state market share. These early gains have positioned us to be on pace to meet our target of 850 new first year students and 125 transfers.

Our first year retention rate came in at 82%, which is 3% better than our goal of 79%. Over the last two years, we have gained 9% points on first to second year retention, 73% to 82%, which is a rare achievement for any institution. Indeed, this is the largest two year jump in the history of the institution and 82% is our third best retention year on record. We will work hard to maintain and improve up that mark and we are currently implementing the next phase of our retention plan.

Upper class retention is another key area of focus, and we are implementing plans to improve that along with our graduation rates. I hope to have good news to announce on that front in the upcoming years.

We have seen good demand in our graduate programs – especially in nursing and counseling - and are working to grow those in light of both good revenue opportunities and the strategic plan.

2. Academic and Student Affairs

*Law Dean Search*

The search committee has begun preliminary interviews of selected applicants and is pleased with the high quality of interviewed candidates. The committee expects to recommend six to seven finalists for on campus interviews in late January and early February.
Library Dean Search

Advertising and recruitment of applicants will continue as planned until mid-January. To date, 11 candidates have applied.

Common Curriculum

Faculty and curriculum committees in the undergraduate colleges have reviewed the proposed Common Curriculum and submitted their comments. The Common Curriculum Implementation Task Force is considering all the comments and will issue an updated proposal for further comment. The proposal is being reviewed according to established University processes and a final recommendation will be made to me by the end of the semester. I will give the proposal careful review and I will keep the Board informed of my decisions.

Strategic Plan Implementation in Academic Affairs

In addition to the Common Curriculum revision, work continues on numerous retention initiatives with Sal Liberto as chair of a campus-wide task force, grants and research (hiring a new director), honors program (national search for new director), coordination of interdisciplinary programming, and new program accreditation (Mass Communication).

Enhancing Student Life

- EMPLYola Surge is the Career Development Center’s new campaign that provides the resources for a more dynamic, energized career discernment and job search program for Loyola students and young alumni in concert with a strategic employer development campaign. Details of the program can be found: http://studentaffairs.loyo.edu/careers

- The Fall Jesuit Speaker series included: President Kevin Wildes. S.J., discussing “Loyola’s Past, Present and Future”; Fr. Fred Kammer, S.J., discussing “Poverty in the South.” Also featured, Mr. Ed Gerety, the key note speaker at this summer’s National Jesuit Student Leadership Conference, his presentation was entitled, “Make Your Mark: Leadership Principles to Meet the Challenge.”

- During the Academic/Student Affairs committee meeting, students from the new Emerging Leaders program will discuss their 6-week non-credit, co-curricular class. Topics included: Discovering Your Leadership Style; Clarifying Values; High Impact Leadership Training; Being an Inclusive Leader; Wolves on the Prowl-national day of service; Emerging Leaders Banquet. The Emerging Leaders program was developed to provide students with opportunities and skills to become involved on and off campus.

- The latest First Year residential cluster program featured James Kofi Annan. With a full house, Annan discussed his work to end human trafficking and his experiences as a former child slave. Students explored ways in which their actions today can fight human trafficking globally.

- Fall Sports: 1st year in Southern States Athletic Conference (SSAC); Volleyball: currently 25-13, 6-2 conference record; 2nd place in West division; on pace for best winning percentage since 2007; SSAC Conference tournament this weekend in Biloxi. Cross
**Country:** Women CC finished 5th out of 11 teams, 4 runners with personal best times at SSAC conference meet. CC men finished 6th out of 10 teams.

**Monroe Hall Renovations Planning**

This project is in the schematic design phase. Architects from Holabird & Root and their local partners, Holly and Smith, met with faculty and staff in affected departments to clarify programming, space and adjacency needs. The schematic design phase is scheduled to complete by late December, with a cost analysis due by Mid-January. Everyone reports overall satisfaction with the process.

**Student Center and Residence Hall Planning**

The architectural team of Kell-Muñoz and Mathes-Briere continue to meet with the university community regarding the new student center and residence hall. The next round of open forum meetings for students, faculty and staff are scheduled for the 2nd week in December. At these meetings, the group will begin to share preliminary drawings to add to the discussion.

**Athletic Field Search**

In an effort to find field space for existing and future Loyola sports teams, both intercollegiate and intramural, Tommy Screen has been exploring different opportunities for field space at my request for the past 18-24 months. Specifically, Tommy has been looking for land that could house a new baseball and softball field, as well as space for a multi-purpose soccer/intramural field.

Two promising locations exist: 1) The old Kennedy High School site, on the edge of City Park; 2) and property located within the confines of City Park itself. Tommy has met with the appropriate authorities at both the Orleans Parish School Board and City Park on numerous occasions. Each entity is keenly aware of Loyola’s interest and has worked with Tommy to move this process along.

In the case of the Kennedy High School site, bureaucratic and political hurdles have had to be cleared over the last 12-18 months and some still exist. However, the school board remains aware of our desire and seems willing to work with us.

The property in City Park seems to be the one with fewer hurdles to clear. Bob Becker, director of City Park, is scheduled to present to his executive committee our plan and will get back to Tommy in the coming weeks to see if they are willing to continue exploring a partnership to meet our need for athletic fields.

**3. Mission and Ministry**

There are a number of important initiatives going on in the Office of Mission and Ministry:

- Planning on the Tom Benson Jesuit Center is progressing. The architect selection process is underway and architects are being interviewed for selection of primary architect. As
the process moves forward, recommendations for the architectural firm will be made to me who will make the final decision.

- New Jesuit Education booklet has been published for faculty, listing ‘best practices’ and practical teaching suggestions for inculcating Jesuit pedagogy into classes across the curriculum.

- New service initiatives for faculty/staff with a faculty/staff immersion trip to Belize planned in May. The trip will be facilitated by Tom Ryan, director of LIM. In addition, an expanded alumni immersion trip to Kingston, Jamaica in May/June, co-sponsored by the Alumni Association is being planned. The Nursing School is planning its first immersion experience for Loyola nursing students.

- Loyola Week 2010 (Nov 1-7): a week focusing on Loyola’s Jesuit heritage. It was just held and was the most popular yet in terms of attendance, participation, publicity and variety of activities.

4. Finance

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. The second phase will be presented at the May, 2011 meeting and include the remaining parts of the budget, accompanied by a fine-tuning of revenue and expense projections.

The budget proposal as recommend by the University Budget Committee for fiscal year 2011-2012 is based on an incoming Undergraduate class of 850 new students with an additional 125 transfers and readmits for a total of 925 new/readmits. The retention rate in the budget is 81%. Law revenue is based on a class of 851 students.

The University Budget Committee has recommended a 5.9% Tuition increase, a 1.5% Salary pool increase, and a 6% increase in Room and Board. The budget, as presented, results in a surplus of $600,000. We propose to transfer $500,000 of this amount to the Plant Fund. This will result in a surplus of $100,000. I have approved their recommendation.

5. Construction

It is evident around campus that we have begun the first phase of the implementation of the master plan.

*Thomas Hall*

Recent Progress: Scaffolding along the St. Charles Avenue side of the building has been erected to begin the masonry cleaning work. The structural steel for the building addition is nearly complete. Metal stud framing for the wall partitions—floors 2 and 3 are nearly complete and the
4th floor is in progress. Metal ductwork for the HVAC is nearly complete on the 2nd and 3rd floors. Bathrooms on the 2nd and 3rd floors have been roughed-in. The main water line and fire sprinkler line have been brought into the building. Electrical rough-in work has started as wall framing progresses. Construction is scheduled to be complete February 2011.

West Road Garage

Recent Progress: Concrete pour number 6 is complete (out of 9 pours). The current project schedule has all concrete pours completed by early December 2010. Dismantling the tower crane is scheduled for mid-December. Once all concrete pours are complete, the contractor has approximately one and a half months of finish work to completion. Construction is scheduled to be complete February 2011.

Dominican Law Clinic

Recent Progress: The project has been going smoothly. Demolition work is approximately 95% complete. Main HVAC ductwork and branch ductwork is installed on all 3 floors. The under-slab plumbing rough-in is currently in progress. The fire sprinkler pipe has been installed on all three floors. Construction is scheduled to be complete June 2011.

Phase II Planning

The principal projects of the second phase of the master plan are Monroe Science and a new student residence hall and student center. Planning for both projects is well underway and discussed in the section on Academic and Student affairs. I will review the plans when they are ready and make decisions about what we will recommend to the Board.

6. Government Relations

New Main Campus Congressman
On November 2nd, Congressman Joseph Cao, who represented Louisiana’s 2nd Congressional District was defeated by Cedric Richmond. Congressman-elect Richmond will become the 3rd Congressman to represent the main campus since 2008 when he is sworn into office this coming January.

In other election news, Louisiana’s junior senator, David Vitter, a one-time Loyola Law professor, was re-elected to his second term in the Senate. Finally, Congressman Steve Scalise was re-elected to his 2nd full term in the House of Representatives, where he will continue to represent the law school campus.
Higher Education Funding
Prior to leaving Washington to return to their districts for the mid-term elections, current members of Congress punted on enacting a single appropriations bill, including the bill that funds higher education programs.

With that in mind, they will have to come back for a lame-duck session after the election. The session could be active for higher education because student aid funding and expiring higher education tax provisions are both slated for consideration.

However, due to the election results many believe that Congress may very well punt funding decisions to the next Congress that will be sworn into office at the beginning of next year. No one knows for certain at this point.

Senate punts on DREAM Act Too
The bipartisan DREAM Act, which was first proposed a decade ago, would help undocumented students gain citizenship and allow eligibility for some forms of federal student aid.

The higher education community has strongly supported the bill over the years and I let both Senators from Louisiana know that I supported this legislation. However, due to the politics surrounding the consideration of the defense appropriations bill, which would have contained an amendment that would have included the DREAM act, a vote was never taken.

Impact of Elections on Gainful Employment Regulations
The results of the mid-term elections may provide the for-profit institutions with a little breathing room – it is believed that now that the Republicans control the House that they are likely going to try and water down any regulations the Department releases on this issue in January.

As a reminder, as the regulations are currently written, Loyola will not be impacted by this issue unless the new regulations expand the definitions listed in the regulations.

Update on Loyola Avenue
Loyola has entered into a lease agreement with the city of New Orleans that will allow the University access to Loyola Avenue while the act of sale works its way through the bureaucratic hurdles. This access, you will recall, is driven by the implementation of Phase II of the master plan.

7. Institutional Advancement
I will not attempt to review all of the activities undertaken by the Office of Institutional Advancement during the first quarter of FY 2011 – that information is available for your review elsewhere in this book. However, as demonstrated in the reading material, Bill Bishop’s team has performed a considerable amount of work during the period since our last Board meeting.

Let me highlight some key points:
First, at the last meeting of the Advancement Committee in October, the Committee decided to establish a Campaign Organizing group consisting of members of the Board of Trustees. The mission of this working group is to assist Bill and me in our efforts to prepare the University to enter into a comprehensive fund raising campaign. This group will assist us in securing the full Board of Trustees concurrence to a resolution to be presented to the Board in May 2011 to enter into the Leadership Phase of a comprehensive campaign with a working fundraising goal of $100M. Derby Gisclair, Chairman of the Advancement Committee, has reached out to potential members of the Group, and the draft agendas for the proposed meetings have been prepared. I wish the members well as they perform this important work.

Secondly, at its last meeting, Bill also stated that his focus for this year would be to improve the return on the investment made by the University in the Office of Institutional Advancement, to pursue the implementation of the university’s strategic plan – **Loyola 2012**, and to work with the Provost to prepare the University for its Centennial Celebration activities. Bill’s team is actively engaged in moving forward in each of these areas and in his forthcoming presentation to the Advancement Committee, he will outline progress made in each of them.

Third, and finally, an overriding mission of the Office of Institutional Advancement is to secure philanthropic support for the University. In this regard, the total amount of the gifts for the period August 1, 2010, to November 5, 2010, -- $1,578,303 – is higher than the amount of the gifts received during this same time frame for the previous three years. I will carefully monitor the Advancement Office’s progress throughout the remainder of this year as it pursues this most important mission.

### 8. Environment

I suspect that there are few college and university campuses, outside of New Orleans, who are as sensitive to questions of the environment and sustainability. From Katrina and Rita and the BP oil spill we have lived with the impact of major environmental disasters.

Last year we established a campus wide committee on sustainability. (You can follow the work of the committee on its website: [http://academicaffairs.loyno.edu/campus-sustainability-group](http://academicaffairs.loyno.edu/campus-sustainability-group)) The committee is chaired by Dr. Bob Thomas and reports to the Provost. In addition to the common concerns about recycling we are moving in our new construction for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. We are also exploring opportunities for the development and use of solar power for the campus.

### 9. Civic Involvement

I have begun to serve as a Commissioner of the Public Belt Railroad. At this writing I am chairing a subcommittee on governance of the Railroad. I am optimistic about our ability to make some significant recommendations in the near future.

The first of this year’s President’s Forums was held on the evening of 11 November. Environmental historian John R. McNeill, Ph.D., who is a faculty member in the Walsh School
of Foreign Service at Georgetown University gave the lecture entitled “Turbulent times: 100 Years of Environmental Change.” It was well attended and received. Earlier in the day Professor McNeill lectured on campus on his most recent book *Mosquito Empires: Ecology and War in the Greater Caribbean, 1640-1914.*

The Forums are designed to explore and discuss some of the most compelling contemporary issues that we face.