President’s Report

As we gather for the first meeting of the academic year, we continue to focus our work on some of the key issues we have been facing. Last year, our focus was on developing an integrated strategic plan for Loyola which we were able to accomplish. The plan, *Loyola 2012*, was approved by the Board at the May meeting.

We still have work to complete on the plan. The most notable part of the plan, which will be the focus for this meeting, is a new long term facilities plan. That plan will be presented and discussed in the facilities sub-committee and brought to the full Board for review in our plenary session. The master plan is an overall view of how we can best use our space to meet our needs. As we move to specific projects, and details, they will come to the Board for review.

To give you a sense of our overall position let me highlight some general areas.

**Enrollment**

As we all know, since Katrina, we have been rebuilding enrollment. Our enrollment in graduate programs and Law are excellent. The challenge has been rebuilding the undergraduate enrollment.

In fall 2009 enrollment is up 5% over last year in all programs. You may recall that last year we budgeted for 750 new first year students and a 76% retention rate. Our retention rate has been a significant problem that we are moving to address. We have been running at 73%.

I am extremely delighted to report to you that we have exceeded our goals by enrolling 800 new first year students along with 120 transfer students. In addition, our retention rate this year is 80% which is a 7% gain over last year.

While we are exceeding our goals, there is a note of caution. In order to stave off the effects of the recession, losses in state funding (e.g., the “Go Grant” program in Louisiana was cut), and loss of the use of many endowed scholarships from the market downturn, we were forced to expend a slightly higher percentage of institutional funding on financial aid and scholarships to cover the gaps, enroll a big class, and improve retention.

Early fall 2010 applications are 20% ahead of last year.

**Finances**

As you know, as we are rebuilding our enrollment, we are also working our way out of a deficit budget situation. The settlement on the business interruption insurance is the key to our stability as we rebuild the enrollment.

We ended the last fiscal year with a deficit of $5,645,000 which was $50,000 below what we had reported to the Board in December, March, and May.
Academic Affairs

Common Curriculum Implementation

The common curriculum implementation team has begun work to adapt or shape the new proposed common curriculum to the needs of different programs across the university and to link it in terms of an integrated and holistic metacognitive development of “student as scholar” across the freshman, sophomore, juniors and senior years with learning objectives and special programmatic initiatives for each year.

University Honors Program

Working with the honors program faculty directors and others this fall, Provost Kvet has extended the reach of the Honors Program to include arrangements with Enrollment Management and Mission & Ministry. The Ignatian Scholars program (full tuition and room) program will be linked to the Honors Program and to Mission & Ministry. Vice Presidents Dziak and Liberto are actively involved with Provost Kvet in reshaping the honors program. This initiative is directly linked to enhancing Jesuit values throughout the university.

Institutional Effectiveness

We are implementing comprehensive assessment processes to evaluate the effectiveness of our strategic plan initiatives as well as all academic and support programs. These assessment processes will provide faculty, staff, and administrators with results and analyses to determine the success of our programs.

We are coordinating with our accrediting agency, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, to implement the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program that was approved by the Board last May.

Information Technology Initiatives

The final phase of wireless deployment is 95% complete. This will provide pervasive wireless access across both campuses in all classrooms and offices.

We have acquired a new voice mail system that is being configured to replace our aging system which is no longer supported.

The project to replace our financial aid system is well underway and IT is working with the Financial Aid office to complete this project by the end of the year.
First-Year Experience

A robust first-year experience program is a principal element of our strategy to improve retention.

This year we have launched the pilot program for a comprehensive First-Year Experience (FYE), designed to engage students more deeply with Loyola through exciting seminars, learning communities, and residential activities.

We will offer 30 seminars this year to provide each incoming student with a special, interdisciplinary introduction to the liberal arts and sciences. Courses include several New Orleans offerings, “Crescent City People,” “Creole Crossroads,” and “New Orleans: Home of the Muse”; courses with a strong social justice focus such as “Innocence Behind Bars,” “American Health Care: Justice for All?” and “Social Justice and The Wire”; courses linked to residential experiences, such as “Rebuilding New Orleans,” taken by our Cardoner Leadership Fellows.

Since the summer orientations, students have been clamoring to sign up, and parents have expressed great enthusiasm for the program.

Supplementing the seminars are co-curricular learning communities, called Krewes, which involve students in field trips, career exploration, social events, and special programming. Each Krewe is staffed by Student Affairs personnel with expertise in co-curricular student engagement.

Several of the seminars include service learning components that extend students’ academic experience to work with community partners.

We are working with the Office of Enrollment Management and the AVP for Marketing on a multi-faceted promotional campaign to feature the FYE in recruitment efforts. Videotaped highlights from the seminars will be posted on the Loyola website; stories are being written for Loyola Magazine and other publications; contacts with local media are expected to produce stories for the general public.

Faculty teaching the seminars have participated in an intensive faculty development program, the Faculty Academy, in which they study best-practices in first-year teaching, critical thinking pedagogies, teaching with technology and other topics. A key part of the Academy is the development and sharing of seminar syllabi and assignments. Thus far, 30 faculty have participated in this program which runs from February through May. It is one of the most comprehensive faculty development programs for FYE in the nation.

We will use our assessments of the pilot program to shape the permanent FYE program to be implemented next year.
Student Affairs

As you might imagine concern about H1N1 has been a very high priority as we began the year. We have an H1N1 Plan that has been implemented. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee will be updated at the time of the meeting, but at this writing we have had a total of 20 H1N1 cases with one active at the moment. We have also submitted a request for 5000 doses of the vaccine. We are also distributing seasonal flu vaccine for students, faculty, and staff at a charge of $20.

Also, as part of the First Year Experience we have 15 First Year Learning Communities and 8 Living/Learning Communities in residence halls. Our residence halls are 92% occupied.

We have completed a renovation of the Loyola Bookstore which reopened on September 24, 2009. Also work has begun on the build out of Carrollton Hall for a late night dining option. This will be completed and open in January 2010.

We have completed a reorganization of co-curricular programs. The Common Ground Student Leadership Retreat was a very successful event. We are holding a Career Fair with Tulane on September 30th.

There has been growth in the Cardoner Leadership Program. There are now 39 participants (FY's and Sophomores).

There has also been a successful launch of the "1st 6 Weeks" program which is a collaborative retention programming schedule geared towards, but not exclusively for, First Year students.

Mission

As with other areas of the University, Mission and Ministry is working to start the implementation of the strategic plan. The work on the strategic goals has already begun: a new staff person (Scott Porot) has been hired this summer to begin dialogue within the University and with our community partners on what will be become a new Center for Public Service. Another staff person (Judy Deshotels) has begun working with faculty and staff on developing orientation and formation programs and activities that foster the University’s Jesuit and Catholic Mission and Identity. A Loyola Press prayer book, ‘Hearts on Fire: Praying with Jesuits’ was distributed to all new first year students.

Institutional Advancement

Grenzebach Glier and Associates, Inc. has completed the feasibility study for a campaign. They tested the number $100,000,000. GG&A interviewed 51 people in face-to-face interviews and 266 people through a phone survey. They will present their initial findings to me in the next week. Their Senior Consultant, Bob Alsobrook, will make a presentation to the Institutional Advancement Committee of the Board at the October meeting. At the December meeting, a presentation will be made to the entire board.
The Annual Fund Office has a new director who will address the issue of fewer alumni contributing to the annual fund. Gifts from alumni increased by 12% last year but 515 fewer alumni contributed. The solicitations this year will include more targeted mailers, incentive programs, and a more focused phonathon. The office is adding two phonathon caller stations to make sure all alumni are called. A volunteer phonathon for alumni, faculty, and staff will be held in January.

The Alumni Office is working closely with the Annual Fund Office to spread the message of the importance of supporting your university. All alumni events will include an appropriate solicitation by a volunteer or staff member. As part of educating students to their lifelong relationship with the university, the Alumni Office gave all entering students a special glass with the alumni logo to welcome them to the campus this fall. The office will continue to sponsor events for students throughout the year.

Audit Committee

Those of you who have been serving on the Board will recall that last year we revamped our committee structure and the scope of each committee. It was felt by the Board that the scope and focus of the Audit Committee needed much more development. So we have worked on it through the end of last year and over the summer. Review of the new committee description and charge was reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee and it will now come as an action item for the full Board.

I am grateful to many people who helped to revamp this committee and its charge. A number of our staff people, Lynn Hoffman, our internal auditor, Ric Bell, our risk manager, Jay Calamia, and Gita Bolt, our University counsel all pitched in. Barry LeBlanc rendered great service in guiding this process forward.

Government Relations

Tommy Screen has been working on a number of issues. We are monitoring the State as the Capitation program took a 48% cut this year which has impacted our own financial aid program. A Federal earmark for the Music Industries Studies Program has passed the Senate. We are awaiting the final passage of the fiscal bills before announcing it. The MIS program will receive $400,000.

Ethics Review Board

My involvement with the Board continues. In August I was elected to Chair the Board for another year. We completed a search for a new Inspector General. Aside from making sure he gets settled in, there is one major structural task we still need to complete for the Office. I believe that can be done this year.