Loyola University New Orleans

Executive Committee of the Board

Meeting Agenda
February 2, 2010
10 a.m. Central Time
President’s Dining Room

I. General Update Fr. Wildes

II. Legal Update Gita Bolt

III. Board Meeting Fr. Wildes

Action Items:
Approval of Phased Retirement Plan for Faculty
Approval of Endowed Professorships
Approval of the Permanent Bond Financing

IV. Sustaining Agreement Fr. Wildes
Fr. Wildes called the meeting to order at 10 a.m., Central Time.

**General Update.** Fr. Wildes reported that first time, full-time applications are up 33 percent over last year. Loyola is already outpacing last year which was a record year. He said he is very happy with the work Vice President for Enrollment Management, Sal Liberto, is doing in building the demand for a Loyola education. Visits are up by 20 percent and Loyola has received more deposits than last year at this time by a 3 to 1 ratio. These are important indicators that show Loyola is on target to meet its goal of enrolling 800 first years and 125 transfers.

Fr. Wildes said that he has asked Provost Ed Kvet and Mr. Liberto to work on a long-term strategy to decrease the discount rate.

Retention fall to spring was good, 95 percent for first years compared to 92 percent last year.

Fr. Wildes said that Academic Affairs is looking at extending the phased retirement plan for faculty. The plan which was adopted by the Board in May 2005 has been successful in helping long term faculty prepare for retirement. Nearly 55 percent of the faculty and staff have been with the university less than five years. Approval of a phased retirement plan for faculty will come to the Board as an action item at the March meeting.
Fr. Wildes gave an update on the searches for a vice president for Institutional Advancement and a law dean.

In the search for the vice president for Institutional Advancement, the search firm reviewed an initial pool of 180 candidates. The search committee will conduct a first round of interviews in early March followed by a round of campus interviews with the three finalists. It is Fr. Wildes’ goal to name a new vice president for Institutional Advancement by the end of the academic year so that the transition would happen during the summer.

In the search for the law dean, Fr. Wildes reported that the law school has its own bylaws for dean searches. Thus far, the search is moving along with Provost Kvet having met with the search firm and the search committee.

Fr. Wildes said he has been working on several organizational policies including liberal leave, university cell phones, and contracts administration. He explained there were no policies in place that addressed these issues. A liberal leave policy was recently adopted and policies regarding contract administration and university cell phones have been developed and will soon be implemented.

Fr. Wildes announced that Provost Kvet has pulled together benchmarking data that compares selected aspects of Loyola’s profile such as retention and graduation rates, enrollment, and other important indicators with those of the AJCU schools as well as those in Loyola’s national reference group. This information will be extremely helpful to the leadership team and faculty as Loyola moves forward in addressing retention, persistence, and graduation rates.

Fr. Wildes commented that he has just come from a meeting with Standard & Poor’s Financial Services LLC, who are making their first visit to campus today. They are here to collect information in order to rate our 2010 issue. Fr. Wildes said the financial affairs staff prepared an impressive booklet outlining the university’s direction and strategy with sections on enrollment management, financial review, historical financial data, endowment and institutional advancement, and an overview of projects.

In the area of Finance, Fr. Wildes reported that budget projections for 2009-10 are holding the same as reported at the December Board meeting.

In Mission and Ministry, Fr. Wildes reported Fr. Dziak has taken on the responsibility of recruiting Jesuits to the university. In addition, Mission and Ministry now has a full-time staff person who will assist Fr. Dziak in developing programmatic offerings that better build a culture in which our Jesuit identity and values reach the faculty and staff.

Fr. Wildes said that he was recently in Washington, D.C., where he visited members of the Louisiana delegation to thank them for their support to higher
education. He also announced Loyola has entered into a three year agreement with the lobbying firm, Cornerstone Group, who will represent the university in Baton Rouge and Washington, D.C.

Legal Update. Ms. Bolt gave an update on the cases that have settled and on pending litigation.

March Board Meeting. Fr. Wildes reported that the following action items will go to the full Board:

- Approval of the Phased Retirement Plan for Faculty.
- Approval of Endowed Professorships.
- Approval of the Permanent Bond Financing.

Fr. Wildes announced that he invited the Provincial of the New Orleans Province, Fr. Mark Lewis, S.J., to the March meeting.

Sustaining Agreement. Fr. Wildes reported that he attended the recent annual meeting of the presidents of the Association of Jesuits Colleges and Universities where it was the consensus of the presidents that before entering into an agreement, there needs to be more deliberations and discussions. Fr. Wildes said he will continue discussions with Fr. Lewis and keep the Board apprised.

Other. Mrs. Mestayer inquired about Loyola’s construction projects. Fr. Wildes responded that several deferred maintenance projects are underway. In addition to this work, plans for the parking garage and the renovation of Thomas Hall are moving ahead. The Loyola website now has a section called “Construction Notes” which gives updates and notices on road closings, etc.

Fr. Wildes has regularly scheduled monthly meetings with Ed Kvet, Paul Fleming and Cissy Petty to monitor the progress of all the construction projects.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Minutes approved________________