Since the last Board meeting, we continue with the implementation of *Loyola 2012*. Each area of the University is moving forward and working together to implement the plan. And, as you will see, we have begun the first phase implementing the facilities Master Plan.

1. Enrollment Update

   Fall 2010 admissions activity has reached an all-time high – applications are almost 30% higher than last year - and we expect successfully to enroll our budgeted class of 800 new full-time first year students and 125 new full-time transfer students. Enrollment deposits are running ahead of last year; and ethnic and socio-economic diversity on campus is as extensive as it has ever been. And, our application pool is as academically strong as it has ever been. You will find our admissions data update in the Board Book.

   With such a rich and varied pool of new students, we have to make sure our retention efforts keep pace. Last year we showed significant improvement in our retention of first year students who became sophomores. We moved to 80 percent this fall, from 73 percent the previous year (’08-’09). At this time we are also showing an improved retention in our fall to spring enrollment. Our retention from fall to spring is 95 percent; compared to 92 percent last year. There have been many retention initiatives this year, including a fuller selection of first year seminar courses, expanded learning communities, the great work of associate deans and faculty, expanded communication to both students and parents through our new student success and retention coordinator position.

   With a strong start, we will have a good chance to continue to improve fall to fall retention rate. As you know retention rates are very important. First year retention has a clear implication for our budget and all that we can do. Retention rates, like graduation rates, are a clear, common measure in American higher education of academic excellence. Lastly, they are a proxy of student satisfaction. Yes, we are clearly moving in the right direction. But we still have room for improvement. And, indeed, the strategic plan calls for us to make gains in retention every year, so our aims remain high.

   We continue to work on a long term solution for reducing the university’s discount rate. Certainly, the “post-Katrina premium” we were paying on scholarships, the current worldwide economic recession, and shortfalls in Louisiana state aid have not helped us drop our discount in the short term, but increasing demand will allow us, going forward, some flexibility in how we administer our scholarships and financial aid programs. Right now we are projecting that we will enroll this year’s first year class at a discount 3% lower than last year’s. It will take some time to see an impact on the overall budget as we will be carrying heavily discounted classes for some time, but we are starting to make progress on this important task and each year of ascending demand brings a new opportunity to increase net tuition revenues.
The Office of Enrollment Management has also begun working with graduate programs to help these programs grow and manage enrollment. I think our graduate programs represent an area for real growth for the University and a way for us to enhance our reputation.

2. Academic and Student Affairs

Academic Affairs is focused on Strategic Plan Implementation. Specific areas include:

*Improve Retention*
- First-Year Experience Program set for full implementation in fall 2010. The first-year program was developed in collaboration with Student Affairs and Mission & Ministry.

*Enhance Academic Reputation*
- Common Curriculum Implementation Task Force is on schedule to complete development of a Common Curriculum implementation plan by the end of this academic year.
- Graduate Education: proposals to enhance graduate education have been developed (LIM, Criminal Justice) and are moving expeditiously through the university’s approval processes.
- Online Program Technology is expanding with appropriate attention to pedagogy and utilization of resources. Current expansion of online courses and programs are in our evening program, summer session, and graduate/professional programs.
- Program accreditation: initial steps are underway to seek accreditation for the School of Mass Communication and the Criminal Justice program.

*Enhance Jesuit Values*

Academic Affairs is also actively involved in enhancing Jesuit Values through service learning. Service learning at Loyola is growing by leaps and bounds. Last semester (fall 2009), 444 students took one or more designated service learning courses. Twenty-four different courses incorporated a service learning experience, and these courses represented 12 different departments and all four undergraduate colleges. All together, these 444 students spent 7933 hours on service learning activities, for an average of approximately 18 hours per student, which represents a total investment of $150,727 in the greater New Orleans community.

Loyola students and faculty partnered with over 40 non-profit agencies across the city, and these agencies represented the fields of law, environmental advocacy, education (including early childhood), elder services, community advocacy and neighborhood centers, health, criminal justice, immigration, disability services, language access, and small business development.

The Office of Service Learning surveyed service learning students last fall and the results are tremendously encouraging (*a copy of the survey is included in your Board material*).
- 92% of respondents reported that they enjoyed their service learning experience.
• 74% agreed or strongly agreed that service learning made the class more interesting.
• 72% said they would like to take another service learning class in the future.
Among other positive results, a large majority of students reported that service learning gave them a greater understanding of social justice and what makes Jesuit education distinctive.

• 92% said that their service learning experience made them feel more connected to the greater New Orleans community.

Dean of Law Search
A search committee has developed a satisfactory schedule and is working with a search firm to develop a pool of highly-qualified and desirable candidates along with on-going recruiting by the search committee members. Initial interviews with potential candidates will be in May/June. A date the position will be filled has not yet been determined.

Benchmarking
Benchmarking enables us to see how we compare with other institutions annually and over time.

We do two separate benchmarking measures that use scores on major academic indicators:

- AJCU Schools
- National Peer Group

We have also begun to use benchmarking to assist us in our assessment of initiatives associated with the Strategic Plan as well as on factors such as salary, operational policies, and other factors.

Other benchmarking tools that we are using to assess student satisfaction and best practices include:

- National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)
- Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI)
- Participation in 2010-2011 with Student Voice and NASPA- Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education with four surveys on:
  1. Recreation
  2. Mental Health
  3. Career Development
  4. Student Union/Activities

Each survey is benchmarked against national data, including similar institutions.
• Association of College and University Housing Officers annual international benchmarking survey

• CORE benchmarking Survey for Alcohol and other Drug Use

**New Program:**
We received SACS approval for the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. We applied for an $800,000 grant and plan to begin enrolling the first cohort of students this summer.

**Action Items**
We have several action items for the full Board and the Academic & Student Affairs Committee (ASA), along with several updates for the ASA meeting. One area will be approval of honorary degree candidates. A second action item has to do with the renewal of the Phased Retirement Plan.

**H1N1: August—December 2009**
- Total number of students presenting with upper respiratory symptoms: 801
  - Upper respiratory infections include the common cold, sinusitis, tonsillitis, bronchitis, ear infection, laryngitis
- Of the above 801, total number of students tested for H1N1: 96
  - Total number of students tested for H1N1 with negative results: 66
  - Total number of students tested for H1N1 with positive results: 30

**3. Facilities and Finance Action Item**

**09-10 Financials**
There is no change in the projected deficit report to the Trustees as last reported in December, 2009. We expect to close the fiscal year with an approximate $7.1 million deficit which will be offset by Business Interruption Insurance. Our endowment draw will approximate 5%.

**10-11 Budgets in Progress**
The University Budget Committee is still reviewing both revenues and expenditures associated with the 2010-11 fiscal year and is still projecting a deficit of $2.2 million which will be offset by Business Interruption Insurance with an endowment draw of approximately 5%.

Regarding the 09-10 Financials and 10-11 Budgets in Progress and given the State of Louisiana politics (See Government Relations Report) we are projecting no state aid to be received. We had previously budgeted at $400,000. Nevertheless, we are still able
to maintain the projected deficits as reported in December to the Trustees despite this setback.

**Facilities/Construction:**

Preparations for the Thomas Hall renovation are well underway. Construction bids are due Feb. 23rd. Work on Thomas Hall should begin within 30 days of selection. Plans are being finalized for the addition of two floors on the West Road garage, with construction expected to begin sometime in May. Work is already underway on upgrades to the main campus central plant.

**Action Item**

The Facilities Sub-Committee and Finance Committee will recommend permanent financing of the 2010, $35 million Bond Issue to the Trustees for approval. The Bonds will likely go to market before the end of March. We are currently awaiting both Moody’s and Standard and Poor’s rating which has been promised in early March.

**Construction Notes**

There is now a section of the University’s homepage entitled “Construction Notes.” This section will help keep the campus community informed about what is going on on campus in a timely manner. Also, the section has the Master Plan and will be updated regularly.

4. **Mission and Ministry Update**

**Increased focus on Mission and Identity for Faculty and Staff:** With the hiring of Dr. Judy Deshotels this year, there has been increased Mission and Identity programmatic offerings for faculty and staff this year. There is an increase in workshops and faculty development sessions that assist faculty members in incorporating Jesuit mission in their curriculum as well as offering speakers on Catholic and Jesuit identity issues. Ignatian spirituality expert Father Joe Tetlow, S.J., is speaking in March on campus as part of our Lenten series. An Ignatian ‘retreat-daily-life’ is soon being launched for the Loyola community while a faculty retreat at Grand Coteau as well as an immersion trip to Kingston, Jamaica for faculty/staff and alumni are planned for May. The Office of Mission and Ministry is also planning a faculty/staff trip to Loyola, Spain next summer (2011) facilitated by Fr. Jerry Fagin, S.J., and Fr. Ted Dziak, S.J. Discussion on how we ‘hire for mission’ continues with the Provost and deans, with their visits to the March M&I Board Committee meeting.

**Boggs Center:** Plans are being made to expand the scope and work of the Lindy Boggs National Center for Community Literacy. Plans are to launch a Boggs Center for Volunteer & Public Service in the summer of 2011. Grants have already been applied for with other foundations and donors being explored and sought.


**International Plans:** Initiatives /partnerships are being explored for further collaboration with Jesuit schools in the Caribbean/ Central America. M&M has been meeting with Debbie Danna (CIS) and with Uriel Quesada (Director, CLACS) about possible pilot projects in Caribbean/ Central America. Discussion has arisen to explore and develop a unique relationship with Belize, a Jesuit mission of the Missouri province. This is further development on one of our strategic goals (internationalization of our school).

**Jesuit Recruitment:** We are actively recruiting and pursuing Jesuits on a national level – and will have two possible Jesuit faculty recruits visit this spring. We have a great need for more Jesuit/priestly presence on campus.

**Board Formation:** A conversation that arose at the last M&I Board committee meeting has initiated plans for a Board retreat on Jesuit mission & identity, possibly at the March 2011 meeting. A possible immersion trip to Belize for Board members is being explored as well.

5. Legal Affairs and Audit

The Executive Committee was given a full briefing on legal affairs at its meeting on 2 February.

Since the last meeting of the Board we have completed work on a new policy on liberal leave and a contract administration policy for the University. In addition, we are completing a wireless communication device policy. Gita Bolt is also developing an intellectual property policy.

During the Audit Committee meeting on February 18th Deloitte and Touche presented a fee schedule for the fiscal year 2010. The Audit Committee also reviewed the 990 Form, prepared by Finance and Administration for the Internal Revenue Service. The 990 Form will be posted on the Board’s web page.

6. Government Relations

In January, Tommy Screen and I participated in the Washington, D.C, Mardi Gras. While there we made a number of visits to Capitol Hill. We used the visits as an opportunity to bring the delegation up to date on the Federal investment in Loyola post-Katrina.

The major news in government relations concerns the mid-year budget cuts to the state ‘capitation’ program. We will work to lobby the Board of Regents members. Tommy has worked with Jay to factor in the “worst-case” scenario in our budgets. At this time the mid-year capitation cut:

- 50% cut to capitation program – that is from $2m to $1m for entire program
- Since January of last year funding has gone from $4.1m to $1m

In light of our campus master plan, Tommy Screen and I have sought the help of ‘The Cornerstone Group, which is a full service government affairs firm that has offices in
Washington, D.C. and in Baton Rouge. Camp Kaufman, founder of Cornerstone, and two of his partners have visited campus and will be working with Tommy to explore all funding opportunities that may exist on a programmatic and capitol project level.

7. Institutional Advancement

The main agenda item for the IA committee will be a presentation by Ed Kvet on the academic case statement for the campaign. Other IA agenda items will be our progress on Strategic Plan goals.

A sign of the improved mood on campus is the growth in the number of faculty and staff making gifts to the University from 29% to 43%. The College of Business and IA both had 100% participation. Student Affairs was next with 98%.

I am working closely with IA and our campaign consultant to prepare for the campaign. I hope to have good news shortly on a lead gift for the campaign. Ed Kvet and the deans have developed an academic list of priorities for the campaign. These will be developed into a case statement for the campaign.

The search for a new vice president continues. The search firm is continuing to develop an initial pool of interested candidates from an initial inquiry pool of 180 candidates. Search committee members are positive about the quality of candidates and the size of the pool.

The committee will select a pool of initial candidates for "airport" interviews within the next few weeks. Interviews will be held on March 4-5 after which we will select finalists and arrange comprehensive campus interviews. Position to be filled by August 1.

8. Civic Engagement

I remain active as the Chair of the Ethics Review Board. Recently I met with the Mayor-elect and the Inspector General. In addition to the ethics administration, Loyola has offered to assist the new administration in a number of areas: 1) our new institute that measures/assesses quality in education; 2) the Jesuit Social Research Institute that looks at social policy questions nationally and locally; 3) The Institute of Politics, for the training of leaders; and 4) our Music-Industry studies program that focuses on the business side of music and culture. In addition, we continue to support the Common Good initiative led by Professor Michael Cowan.