Kevin Wm. Wildes, S.J.

President’s Report

We continue to move along in the implementation of Loyola 2012. Each committee of the Board should receive an update on implementation at the committee meeting. At this meeting of the full Board we will look at the key budget assumptions for next year (e.g., tuition and salaries).

Academic and Student Affairs

Academic Affairs is continuing to implement various initiatives from the Strategic Plan, most notably program accreditation, working with communications and forensic chemistry, first year experience, common curriculum, academic success center (with student affairs), on-line learning (new programs in criminal justice and LIM), Evening Division, and graduate programming.

Both Academic and Student Affairs are working on the details and challenges of executing the new facilities plan. We have begun looking at programming for Monroe Hall and the long term phasing of the facilities plan. Student Affairs is also moving ahead with some improvements to our residence facilities, which have been approved and for which we have funding. For example we are going ahead with the Carrollton Hall build-out for the late night pizza place, and it should be ready by January/February 2010. Student Affairs is also working with a designer on the refurbishment of the lounge in Carrollton Hall, and projecting costs for the refurbishment of the main lounges in Buddig and Biever. (Also, at this meeting there will be opportunities for Trustees to tour some of these facilities.)

The recent results of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) reflect well on the work we are doing. Thousands of students from hundreds of four-year institutions participated in the survey that provide colleges and universities with information they can use to improve undergraduate education. The NSSE also uses information gathered to develop a guide to help potential students and parents choose the right college. For the 2009 survey, 432 randomly-selected Loyola students were queried on topics related to academics, campus environment and student-faculty relations.

- 85 percent of Loyola University New Orleans seniors would choose to attend Loyola again, given the chance, according to the survey. The survey also revealed:
  - 88 percent of first-year students report a favorable image of the university.
  - 80 percent of first-year students felt the university places substantial emphasis on academics.
  - 70 percent of students participate in community service or volunteer work by their senior year.
  - 62 percent of students participate in some form of practicum or field work by their senior year.
68 percent of first-year students indicate they get prompt academic feedback from faculty.

26 percent of first-year students participate in community-based projects.

Loyola performed far above its peers in matters of diversity. By their senior year, 77 percent of Loyola students said they had serious conversations with students of another race or ethnicity. Only 59 percent of students from Jesuit universities, 52 percent of students in Loyola’s Carnegie class and 57 percent of students in Loyola’s peer comparison group reported the same experience.

Enrollment

You will find a detailed report on undergraduate enrollment in your Board Book. At this writing however, I want to point out that we are up almost 33 percent.

We just had our second annual Jazz Brunch Open House. We hosted 200 prospective students and their families. This was a 15 percent gain in attendance over last year, and it’s consistent with our growth in demand and campus visits (which are up 20 percent over last year, overall). The entire campus community – admissions, ministry, students, faculty, the deans, financial aid, co-curricular life – presented to and visited with our guests and ensured that they received the authentic Loyola experience.

As you know from our last meeting we improved our retention to 80 percent this fall. The Office of Enrollment Management continues to work on building a cohesive early warning system and closely monitoring “at risk” students.

The Office of Enrollment Management has begun looking into developing more effective marketing and admissions models for our graduate programs. Conversations have started and some very real growth initiatives will start in MBA and other places this spring. As we have discussed in the past, we believe that our graduate programs represent an area of growth for us.

Finance & Administration

Budget

2009-10 Projections:

The university’s operations for the fiscal year are projected to result in a deficit of $7.1 million which will be offset by Business Interruption Insurance. The details of Revenues and Expenditures are reflected in the Finance & Administration tab.

2010-11 Budget Projections:

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 increases. The second phase will be presented at the May 2010 meeting and include the remaining parts of the budget, accompanied by a fine-tuning of revenue and expense projections.
The University Budget Committee has completed its work and made their recommendations to me for next year. After review and discussions with Jay, Ed, and Cissy, I am forwarding those recommendations to the Finance Committee. These recommendations include a 5.9 percent Tuition increase, a 3.5 percent Salary and Equity increase, and a 6 percent increase in Room and Board. The budget as presented results in a deficit of $2.2 million to be offset by Business Interruption proceeds. At this point, all Business Interruption proceeds will be expended.

2011-12 and 2012-13 Budget Projections:

The 2011-12 fiscal years reflects the turnaround in generating a surplus. 2012-13 has an even better surplus. Both of these years are projected to produce a greater Net Tuition than in 09-10 and 10-11. The turnaround comes as a result of all “Katrina” related freshmen having graduated and our enrollment is composed of larger 4 year classes.

Master Plan Implementation – Phase I

We have identified projects to begin Phase I for implementation of the Master Plan. The Facilities Sub-Committee and Finance Committee will review our proposal to move forward with the first projects that total approximately $35 million. Budget projections have been extended to 2015-16. Details are in the Finance & Administration tab.

Mission

Since our last Board meeting we celebrated Loyola Week. Also we are progressing in our strategic plan initiatives (new Volunteer Center and Faculty/staff formation in Jesuit & Catholic mission).

The Jesuit provinces in the United States are re-organizing themselves. One of the requests from the Provincials is that there be a sustaining agreement between each of the universities, the local Jesuit community, and the local province. In all of their language and discussions of these agreements the provincials have insisted that they are moral agreements, not legal ones.

To accomplish this Fr. Lewis, S.J., Provincial of the New Orleans Province, and I have been working to create such an agreement. The current draft will be reviewed by the Committee on Mission and Identity at this meeting. (The Agreement is also being reviewed by Fr. Lewis and his staff, and Fr. Rogers, S.J., and the Loyola University Jesuit community). Our hope is that final revisions can be made and we can sign the Agreement at our Spring meeting.

Institutional Advancement

As a sign of the improved climate on campus, 43 percent of the faculty and staff have made an annual gift to the university. Last year 29 percent contributed. The College of Business (100 percent), Institutional Advancement (100 percent), and Student Affairs (98 percent) were the top
contributors so far this year. The campaign ends in December. The national average for like universities is 35 percent.

The College of Business received a $300,000 pledge for its new Center for Spiritual Capital. The Center is an example of creative thinking, Jesuit ideals, and involvement with the community.

Our annual service day, Wolves on the Prowl was held on November 7. Twelve alumni chapters across the country and over 300 volunteers in New Orleans participated in a variety of service projects. The Alumni Office and the Office of Mission and Ministry held an Alumni Memorial Mass as part of Loyola Week. The Alumni Office received over 800 prayer requests from alumni.

In our continuing implementation of the strategic plan, the marketing team is preparing a Service Learning brochure that will be mailed in November to all U.S. News rankers. Service learning is one of the exemplary programs rated by U.S. News and World Report in their annual college issue.

The search is well underway for a new Vice President of IA. As you know I asked Ed Kvet to chair the search. Stephen Peeps, from Meng, Finsethi, Peeps & Associates, is the search consultant assisting us in the search. He has already been to campus and conducted interviews and he has also spoken with a number of others outside of campus to obtain as complete an understanding as possible. The committee will begin to review applicants in the next few weeks. After the committee narrows the field they will ask Trustees to meet with potential finalists. We hope to bring finalists to campus in late February for campus interviews. I hope to be able to make a decision by March.

Audit Committee

At the September audit committee meeting, we had a risk management review and assessment session. In the meeting, we discussed possible risks to the University, which would fall in one of two risk categories: financial and reputation. Several areas of risk were identified in the meeting. Lynn Hoffman, our Internal Auditor is working on moving her risk assessment process towards an Enterprise Risk Management process, which provides a framework for risk management that involves identifying particular events or circumstances relevant to the university's objectives (risks and opportunities), assessing them in terms of likelihood and magnitude of impact, determining a response strategy, and monitoring progress. This will help identify high risk areas and therefore focus on those audits. It will also help the committee attain a comfort level that we are managing our risks.

Civic Involvement

My primary civic involvement continues to be my work on the Ethics Review Board. Since the last meeting of the Board, the new Inspector General, Mr. Ed Quatraveaux, has begun work. The ERB also completed the hire for a Counsel for the Ethics Review Board who has now started
work. The ERB has begun hearing cases and complaints. One of my goals is to complete a cooperative endeavor agreement which articulates the relationship between the ERB and the OIG. I believe that this agreement will be the last major structural piece needed for the city’s ethics administration. I believe that can be done this year.