Kevin Wm. Wildes, S.J.

**President’s Report**

**April 30, 2011**

As we close this academic year we have accomplished a great deal and we are in the midst of doing still more. There is very good news on the enrollment front, particularly for undergraduate enrollment. Also, on the financial front, Standard & Poor’s reviewed our situation, including our proposals for Phase II of the master plan, and reaffirmed our Bond rating at A+ Stable. We are in the second year of implementing the Strategic Plan and we are on schedule there as well.

There are two very important decisions for the Board to consider at this meeting. One decision will be a decision on my recommendations to begin the first parts of Phase II of the master plan. This recommendation will be reviewed by the Finance Committee. The second important decision will be to enter in the quiet phase of a capital campaign. The recommendation will be reviewed by the Institutional Advancement committee.

1. **Enrollment:**

   **Undergraduate Admissions**

   Fall 2011 admissions activity remains very strong and we expect to reach our fall 2011 target of 975 (850 new first years and 125 transfers) students.

   Our Fall 2011 targets represent a new undergraduate student growth rate of 7%.

   First year applications are 21% above last year at this time (6077 v. 5017) and deposits are 22% higher, (146 v. 120). The President’s Open House, in early April, was a success. We were up 12% in attendance over last year. The event was very smooth and the feedback was very strong. We think the result is continued growth over last year and this event offers us another key metric that portends meeting our fall ’11 targets.

   **Retention**

   On retention, there are some challenges with weak academic performance and high financial need in the fall 2010 class. Our staff and others are working very hard to have a strong showing in fall class registration, which started April 4. We have confidence in the long-term efficacy of our programs and plan.

   **Graduate Programs**

   We have a new online criminal justice program that just started and demand is strong for the summer and fall in all graduate programs, especially in counseling and nursing.
2. Academic and Student Affairs:

I recently met with the University Senate during one of their regular meetings. As you know, at my instructions, Ed Kvet has been working with the Senate and the local AAUP Chapter to remove Loyola from the AAUP censure list. As the litigation issues are now behind us, I was able to speak to the issues that were related to the restructuring after Katrina. In the meeting, I iterated my commitment, and the commitment of the Board, to the contractual force of the Faculty Handbook.

Common Curriculum Implementation

Curriculum subcommittees were approved and established to develop criteria for specific requirements. Development of new courses will begin this summer, with implementation to begin in fall 2011.

Online Program Technology

The online education task force developed and is implementing recommendations to enhance our online programming. These include:

- Centralized resources including staffing, equipment and facilities required for the support of Loyola’s online initiatives.
- Established instructional design and quality standards for all online programs and courses.
- Developed measures and a plan for assessment of Quality Online Learning.
- Developing a supporting faculty teaching in an online environment. Faculty development in online pedagogy will be coordinated with the Center for Faculty Innovation.
- Enhanced marketing, recruitment and retention related to online education.

Student Affairs

Each year, the Jesuit Association of Student Professional Administrators (JASPA) honor programs that contribute and influence Jesuit higher education. The 2011 Ignatian Medal for an Outstanding Campus Program was awarded to Loyola University New Orleans in recognition of our program, the Ignatius Loyola Institute for Values Education. It is the only Ignatian Medal awarded to an institution rather than to an individual person. The honor of this award belongs to the many Student Affairs professionals at Loyola who have worked during the past four years to make iLIVE a success.

The Career Development Center

The Career Development Center and the Office of Community Engagement are submitting an application to the Washington Center for Academic Seminars and Internships’ (TWC) 2011 Higher Education Civic Engagement Award. The award acknowledges TWC member institutions that have made service learning and community engagement central to their work. Past recipients of the award include Santa Clara University and the College of New Jersey. Loyola partners with TWC to provide full-time summer internships in Washington D.C. Over
the past three years, seven students have participated in the summer internship program. A current senior from the College of Business is awaiting notices of acceptance to the TWC’s competitive government track for an internship this summer.

The Career Development Center is partnering with the Office of Alumni Relations to acquire web-based job searching tools that alumni can employ to identify and locate potential contacts and leads within the ‘hidden job market’. Presently staffs from the two offices and a committee of alumni volunteers are testing CareerShift, a tool for accessing job leads, contacts that can help with the job search process, and manage the job search communication flow. The team intends to make a decision by June about the value of providing CareerShift to Loyola alumni.

Wolfpack Athletics

On April 26, 2011, the Student Athlete Awards Ceremony celebrated that 70% of student athletes had a GPA of 3.00, with 30% of that number a 3.5 or higher. Overall, the Student-Athletes Report for the Fall 2010 was:

Male athletes’ GPA average: 3.05 (All men’s GPA average: 2.86)

Female athletes’ GPA average: 3.02 (All women’s GPA average: 2.96)

Co-Curricular Programs

Co-Curricular Programs partnered with faculty to offer over 10 programs both on campus and in the community to support learning in the first year seminars.

The Panhellenic, Interfraternity, and National Pan-Hellenic Greek Councils received the Explore AFLV scholarship to send four student leaders to the national conference for the Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values.

Students showed increased engagement in the selection of Student Government Leaders with a 50% increase of students voting in the 2011 elections.

Over Spring Break, the Black Student Union hosted a Unity Trip for 11 students and 1 advisor to engage in community service in Bronx, NY over Spring Break.

Residence Life

At Room Draw in March 2011, 720 returning students registered for campus housing. This is a 30% increase in the 2010 housing pre-registration.

Residence Life is working in collaboration with Physical Plant on refurbishment plans for Cabra Hall to be completed prior to the opening of school in fall 2011.
3. Mission:

*The Benson Jesuit Center*

The architects for the Thomas Benson Jesuit Center have been chosen: Holly and Smith, local architects from Hammond, LA have begun working with the Mission & Ministry leadership team to determine the space usage and design. Fr. Gilbert Sunghera, S.J., an architect from the University of Detroit-Mercy has been contacted to serve as a consultant in the design of the new Chapel. Fr. Sunghera is a faculty member of the School of Architect at UDM and has designed several Jesuit chapels and community buildings in the United States. This initial design phase will continue through the end of the 2011 calendar year.

**Staff**

Three new staff members will join the Mission & Ministry staff this summer. Father Gregg Grovenburg, S.J., joins University Ministry as an Associate Chaplain and will facilitate sacramental ministries. Gregg comes to Loyola with much campus ministry experience, most recently serving on staff at Rockhurst College in Kansas City. Finalists are being interviewed for the new position of Assistant Director of the Jesuit Center for University programs. This new person will join Assistant Director Ricardo Marquez in strengthening the Jesuit Center team to develop programs and activities for faculty/staff and students in the Jesuit/Catholic mission & identity. A new M&M Fellow will soon be hired to work with Associate Chaplain Josh Daly, assisting in the area of faith, justice and sustainability, serving also as advisor to LUCAP. Jesuit Scholastic Sylvester Tan, S.J., will join the faculty in August, serving at Loyola for the next 2-3 years as a regent. He will teach French and work in the Medieval Studies program, including a course in the department entitled “Arthurian Legend.”

**Immersion Programs**

International Immersion programs continued to grow, and a new collaboration with the School of Nursing (SON) brought Nursing faculty Dr. Adrienne Bethancourt to Kingston, Jamaica to work with children with special needs. Plans have begun for an M&M/SON collaboration that would initiate international service experiences for Nursing graduate students, faculty and professional health care alumni. In addition, a new Faculty/Staff immersion trip to Belize, Central America will be held May 21-29 and facilitated by LIM Director, Dr. Tom Ryan. Twelve faculty and staff will be participating.

**Faculty and Staff Development**

Loyola has greatly expanded its involvement of faculty and staff in national Jesuit and Catholic education programs. Two faculty members – Dr. Bernie Cook (History) and Dr. Boyd Blundell (Religious Studies) -- will participate in Colloquium, a joint effort by 65 Catholic colleges and universities to recruit and develop faculty who can articulate and enrich the spiritual and intellectual life of their institutions. Three faculty members will participate in the Magis Retreat in Denver, Colorado and two will participate in the Ignatian Spirituality Conference at St Louis University. This is in addition to the 35 different faculty and staff participating in Ignatian Colleagues, the AJCU Leadership Conference, the Heartland Delta Faculty Conversations.
• An Ignatian Pilgrimage to Spain will be offered for faculty/staff and Board members in summer 2012. Begin making your plans now!
• Interfaith Ministry has grown with the hiring of graduate intern, Sam Bradley. This includes the establishment of a student Interfaith Advisory Council and an increase in events, such as a new Hare Krishna discussion/meal (February 2011) and strong collaborative with the newly constructed Hillel Center near campus.
• Loyola’s College of Law’s ‘Center for Volunteer and Public Values,’ now has a Law and Poverty requirement for graduation. There has been an expanded mission work in Loyola’s professional schools with a growing presence of Law Chaplain Arlene Wiltz. The relationship between Loyola and with Archbishop Gregory Aymond, the Archbishop of New Orleans, has strengthened and grown. Archbishop Aymond hosted several events for Loyola, including over 100 students/faculty/staff of the College of Law at his home and a New Orleans-area Catholic campus ministry director meeting which included Loyola, Tulane, Xavier, Holy Cross and UNO. He visited Loyola three times in recent months and had dinner with undergraduate students, met with Compass, a student organization and will be facilitating confirmation in Ignatius Chapel. The Archbishop will also attend Loyola’s graduation (May 2011).
• The on-line and social network resources of M&M have grown, included Magis Moments (Fall 2009), a twice-a-semester e-newsletter and an expanded and revamped M&M web site. Web-based resources will continue to be expanded, including on-line resources for spirituality/retreats and on-line resources for faculty/staff & students.
• Expanded international collaboration, which included the hosting of three Columbian Jesuits from the Javeriana University of Bogota, Colombia, who came to Loyola to learn best practices in the area of mission, identity, faculty and staff development and social responsibility. Future collaboration is being explored.
• Loyola recently hosted the national meeting of the AJCU Campus Ministry Directors Meeting, where campus ministers from all 28 Jesuit universities visited our school and city.

4. Finance and Administration:

2010-11

The university is projected to end the fiscal year with a $2.5 million deficit while maintaining a 5% draw on endowment. The shortfall will be offset by $2.6 million of Business Interruption insurance resulting in a Net Surplus of $100 thousand.

2011-12

Our practice at Loyola is to present the Budget recommendations in two phases. The first phase was presented to the Trustees at the December Board meeting and involved the recommendation of Tuition and Fee rates (5.9%), Room and Board rates (6.0%), and Salary merit pool increases (1.5%).
The second phase will be presented at the May 2011 meeting and include the remaining parts of the budget (Utilities, Insurance, Debt Service, Financial Aid, Fringe Benefits and All Other Operating Expenditures), accompanied by a fine-tuning of revenue and expense projections.

Endowment

Since the beginning of 2011, the Loyola University portfolio has benefited from the continuing of the market rally and the strengthening economy. As of February 28, 2011, the unrestricted fund returned 15.5% fiscal year-to-date (since July 31, 2010). This is 2.4% higher than the 13.1% fiscal year-to-date return of the fund’s benchmark, a 60/40 blend of the S&P 500 and the Barclays Aggregate Index. The market value for the unrestricted portfolio was $193.0 million at the end of February 2011.

The restricted portfolio also took advantage of the market gains with a fiscal year-to-date return of 17.6% and a market value of $81.3 million at the end of February 2011.

Facilities Phase I Projects

Thomas Hall will be finished this summer. The offices of Admission, Student Records, and Financial Aid will move in over the summer.

The Law Clinic project is moving along smoothly, with completion scheduled for June 2011.

Phase II

After reviewing all of the planning, the cost estimates, and financing for the Phase II projects, I have made my recommendations to the Facilities sub-committee of the Finance Committee. In my recommendations, I assume that this is not and “either/or” situation but a “both/and” situation. We need to address Monroe Hall and the academic facilities and we need to improve residential housing. But we need to sequence the projects based on our capabilities. So, I am recommending that we undertake the Monroe Hall renovation and expansion and begin renovation of our existing residence hall facilities beginning with Cabra. (The Benson Center is on its own timeline and is addressed under Mission and Ministry.)

5. Institutional Advancement:

Improving ROI

The university has made a substantial investment in the Office of Institutional Advancement. The office’s activities, to date, have focused on establishing our baseline and determining our appropriate team-level performance metrics. With this information, we can measure our increased efficiency from year-to-year. However, to determine whether we are doing the “right things,” we have reached out to six comparison institutions – Villanova, Xavier, Rollins, Santa Clara, University of Richmond, and Trinity University of San Antonio – to engage our counterparts in substantive discussions about their respective advancement programs. Bill will report to the Advancement Committee in May on our progress to date and expect to present a full report to the Committee at our fall 2011 meeting.
Implementation of Loyola 2012

Institutional Advancement is actively engaged in the implementation of Loyola 2012. We are specifically engaged with enhancing Loyola’s national reputation as reflected in the U. S. News & World Report rankings and in increasing our alumni participation as evidenced by alumni giving. In regard to our alumni participation, our “absolute” numbers are improving; I urge caution in the drawing of any specific conclusions. We are in the process of establishing our baseline and ensuring appropriate counting and reporting standards are in place. Bill will report the results to date to the Advancement Committee.

Centennial

Preparations for the celebratory activities for the university’s first 100 years are underway. Members of the Office of Institutional Advancement are actively involved in the planning for these activities. The Centennial theme – “Celebrating Our Past; Embracing the Future” -- and brand have also been selected.

Campaign

Since the December 2010 Board of Trustee meeting, the IA Committee established a Campaign Organizing Group [COG], consisting of 6 members of the IA Committee, and three meetings of this committee have been conducted. Based upon the information presented to this Committee by the Office of Institutional Advancement and the consulting firm of GG+A, this committee has the mission to advise the full Advancement Committee as to the readiness of the university to enter into the Leadership Phase of the campaign. Thanks to the diligent work of the volunteer members of the Campaign Organizing Group, the Advancement Committee will forward a resolution seeking Board of Trustee endorsement for the initiation of the leadership phase of a $100M comprehensive campaign. Our hope is to have the Board of Trustees concur with a resolution for Loyola University New Orleans to enter into the “Leadership Phase/Quick Phase” of a comprehensive fund raising campaign with an effective date of August 1, 2011. The working goal of the campaign will be $100M, and the tentative completion date of the Campaign will be July 31, 2017. Entry into the “Public Phase” of the Campaign will be tentatively set to coincide with the conclusion of the Centennial Celebrations scheduled for on or about April 2013. A final determination as to the goal of the campaign and the “kick off” of the public phase could be made at the December 2012 BOT meeting.

A necessary, but not sufficient, condition for the campaign to be successful is the full support of the Board of Trustees – with its time, its talent, and its treasure.
6. Government Relations:

Federal Affairs

FY 2011 – Budget Deal

Student financial aid programs were largely spared during the recent round of budget cuts agreed upon by the White House and Congress announced in mid-April that prevented the federal government from shutting down. Specifically, the maximum Pell Grant Award was maintained for the next academic year. In addition, the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) program was saved from any major reductions in funding. Some smaller programs were cut, but Higher Education funding fared about as well as could be expected given the current environment in Washington.

FY 2012 – Budget Debate/Schedule

In mid-April, the House of Representatives passed a budget resolution that essentially puts Pell Grants and other financial aid programs under attack like we have not seen before. Specifically, the maximum Pell award would be dramatically reduced to levels from FY ’07. It is unclear at this point, whether or not the language calls for the FY ’07 award levels, or FY’07 total funding level, which would be a considerable difference due to the dramatic increase in the number of Pell eligible students.

Senate leadership has maintained that it is their intent to try and hang on to the current maximum award level for Pell. However, it is difficult to see a scenario where the maximum award will remain at $5,550 when final numbers are agreed on at the end of this budget process.

As is typically the case, budget and appropriations hearings will heat up during the early part of the summer and there will be major efforts to protect financial aid programs by the higher education community.

State Affairs

The state legislative session began on April 25th and will run until the end of June.

A number of bills have been filed that would impact Loyola, although not nearly as many as would impact the public institutions across the state. A few examples include: 1) one piece of legislation that calls for the consolidation of all of Louisiana’s higher education boards into a single board, 2) another would call for significant changes to the TOPS program, which provides Louisiana students with state dollars to help offset tuition; and 3) another would allow concealed weapons on college campuses (although private colleges seem to be exempted as the bill currently stands).

Needless to say Tommy will be following the session very carefully to ensure Loyola’s interests are being monitored.
Local Affairs

The city of New Orleans has asked members of the Orleans Delegation to introduce legislation that would address some of their concerns with the non-profit tax exemptions Loyola and other non-profits currently enjoy. The good news is that many of the changes they are exploring would require constitutional amendments and are long-shots at best to pass through the legislature, much less work their way through the constitutional amendment process, which includes a vote of the people.

All that being said, Tommy and his colleagues from the other private colleges and the archdiocese have meetings planned with the bill authors to review our concerns and will be working to help ensure as satisfactory an outcome as possible is achieved.

7. Legal:

We are wrapping up the last of our mandatory training sessions and will begin next month with voluntary sessions for ADA and FERPA. We are reviewing a number of policies, including sexual harassment and intellectual property. The General Counsel website will hopefully be up by next month. This development will assist us with getting the word out regarding legal and procedural updates.

8. Environment:

The Campus Sustainability Study Group is up and running. The Group is responsible for developing and recommending initiatives to enhance the university's environmental practices.

The Campus Sustainability group has responded to the major national questionnaires regarding the University's sustainable operations ratings, and used them to set a baseline for improvement: Princeton Review, Green Report Card, and Peterson Report.

http://academicaffairs.loyno.edu/campus-sustainability-group

9. Civic:

I remain on the Commission for the Public Belt Railroad. I am currently chairing the committee on governance reform. I believe we will finish the first phase of our work soon and send recommendations to the Mayor. I was happy that a recent editorial in the Times-Picayune supported the work on governance reform. (The same editorial included a brief quote from me and commented: “He is right.” I remind my team of that every day.) The legal framework for the NOPBR in a mix of City ordinance and State law and so will require legislative changes at both levels.