As I reported in the past we are engaged in a number of initiatives which are laying the groundwork for the University’s future. We will talk more in depth in our meeting about a number of these. In this Report, I want to give you an overview of the University.

1. Academic, Student Affairs, and Enrollment:

*Academic Affairs*

**College of Business**

The College of Business has named a new Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, Dr. Jeffrey Krug, who is making promising changes to the MBA program.

The College of Business is completing a proposal for a brand new Center for Entrepreneurship and Community Development. Dr. Felipe Massa is leading this proposal with Dean Locander.

**Humanities and Natural Sciences**

The HNS Teaching Certification Program (TEAC) officially started this spring. We are offering two TEAC courses, both with very healthy enrollments. We are seeking external funding to expand our opportunities.

The Translation and Certification Program is starting its second semester and its second cohort. The program received funding for additional equipment and is considering partnerships with local organizations to provide opportunities for internships of its students.

Biology moved into the newly renovated fifth floor of Monroe Hall. The department completed an in-depth review of their program complete with external evaluators. The department will use the results of the review to improve the Biology curriculum.

Physics also completed an in-depth review with external evaluators. Physics is working to infuse its first year courses with the excitement present in their research program and more advanced Physics courses.

HNS awarded five Loyola University Collaborative Scholarship (LUCS) fellowships to five Humanities faculty and five undergraduate students. The goal of the LUCS Fellowships is to expand the opportunities for undergraduate research in the Humanities. The projects are varied, ranging from editorial work in English, to archive research in History. Faculty fellows come from English, History, and Languages and Cultures.

HNS just announced the Bobet Fellowships in support of faculty projects in research, teaching or creative activities. In anticipation for the Quality Enhancement Project (QEP), the Bobet Fellowships now also support undergraduate research.
College of Law

Skills and Experiential Learning

This past year has brought innovation and recognition to the College of Law. Our skills program was recognized by Prelaw and National Jurist magazines as one of the 25 most innovative in the country. Loyola’s skills tracks are the innovation for which we noted. With these tracks, students will take their skills courses in concentrated areas such as solo/small practice, social justice and health law. This will prepare our students to be “practice ready” upon graduation.

International

The College of Law has also expanded its international reach by adding new study abroad opportunities for its students. Law students can now study at summer programs in Spetses, Greece and in Panama City, Panama; which is the first U.S. study abroad program in that country. These programs provide our graduates with knowledge and skills and prepare them for a career in the globalized legal community.

Law Academic Success Program

The law academic success program enhances bar exam preparation with a multifaceted approach. Faculty, students and graduates work together to address needs which have become more complex as the bar examination in Louisiana has evolved. As part of the program, a new Director of Bar Preparation and Learning Initiatives has been conducting Bar Preview Workshops for the current students and coordinating Bar Preparation workshops taught by our regular faculty for our law graduates taking the bar.

University Library

The Monroe Library’s Online Learning Team developed a five-session colloquium on the best practices for teaching online, hosted by the Center for Faculty Innovation in Spring 2014.

The library’s Media Services Team continues to support the installation of IT in new classrooms in Monroe Hall, and recently upgraded two classrooms in Communications/Music.

Academic Affairs – Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

We have changed the name of the Office of Service Learning to the Office of Community Engaged Learning, Teaching and Scholarship to reflect Loyola’s broad-based academic outreach into the community.

We have expanded our online summer school for 2014. Of the 168 summer courses we are offering, 57 will be online. This expansion allows more Loyola students to take courses from home and other locations this year.

As part of our efforts to enhance first-year students' success, the Center for Faculty Innovation (CFI) is offering a First-Year Teaching Colloquium for all instructors of first-year
courses at Loyola: FY Seminars, introductory Common Curriculum and majors courses. The colloquium is meeting throughout the spring semester and will culminate in May. Topics include best practices in first-year teaching, engaged pedagogy, high impact practices, assignment and syllabus design.

The CFI is also offering a semester-long Online Teaching Course to educate faculty in best practices in course design and strategies for sustaining Ignatian pedagogy in online formats. The course meets monthly throughout the spring semester.

The Center for International Education has increased recruitment of international students in Latin America, with new recruitment efforts in Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Brazil. A recent partnership with Brazil will send a number of science students to Loyola beginning Fall 2014, and we are in the early stages of exploring a similar relationship with Panama.

Loyola has become an active partner in the Jesuit Commons: Higher Education at the Margins (JC-HEM) project, which offers Jesuit higher education to those displaced by war, famine, and violence in Africa and the Middle East. A core group of faculty is working to develop courses for online delivery through JC-HEM, and one faculty member is already scheduled to begin teaching in the program in 2015.

Student Affairs:

Highlights:

The Career Development Center is successfully introducing the Emerging Professional program. This semester long program is designed to provide juniors and seniors students with resources necessary to transition from Loyola to the professional work place or graduate school.

Athletics/Wellness:

Women’s basketball player, Jasmine Brewer was 1 of 5 women selected for The Allstate WBCA Good Works Team” based on her outstanding community service and athleticism. Jasmine is the only non-Division I athlete selected.

A new initiative in the Wellness department is: loynOrec. LoynOrec is a new outdoor recreational sports offering taking place in and around New Orleans.

Uptown Campus Dining:

Phase II of the Loyola Dining Services Master Plan is underway, and will be implemented over the next 24 months. The Loyola campus community can look forward to new food concepts and a refresh on furnishings!

Co-Curricular Programs:

One Loyola, One Community Civility Campaign. The One Loyola room has been the hub of nationally recognized programs that support cultural activism, and programs are designed to raise student’s awareness of the relationship between personal behavior and the quality of campus life.
Enrollment

To date, close to 3,300 have been admitted and another 500 remain in the active pool of applicants. The Scannell & Kurz model predicts enrollment to settle between 600 and 615 first-time, first-year (FTFY) students. Merit and talent awards have been released and families are being encouraged to file for need-based aid. Financial aid staff will begin packaging need-based aid this week aiming to have award information available to families by President’s Open House on Saturday, March 29. The primary focus of the campus now shifts from recruiting students to yielding admitted students. The next milestone in the cycle is the annual Open House which serves as our best indicator of depth of interest in the admitted pool.

As part of new recruitment yield programs, the admissions team, University leaders, and faculty are strengthening our on-going relationships with key influencers – high school teachers and high school college counselors. Last month, we reinstituted counselor fly-ins, a program that brought college counselors from 20 key high schools, including two Cristo Rey schools, from around the country to campus for a full weekend of engagement with our students, faculty, and New Orleans. These individuals shape a student’s list of considered universities and partner with parents to weigh competing offers. The better they know Loyola, the better they can help us explain value to our admitted students and their parents. Programs of this nature build a recruitment foundation for the long-term.

2. Mission and Ministry:

Programs for the formation of faculty/staff in Jesuit mission & identity have grown:

- Two Loyola Faculty members have been chosen to participate in the next cohort of the Ignatian Colleague Program: Dean Maria Calzada (HuNS) and Faculty member Dr. Alice Clarke (CMFA and Chair of Faculty Senate.) The 18 month AJCU program is designed to educate and form administrators more deeply in the Jesuit tradition of higher education. Vice-President Cissy Petty and Dean Maria Lopez (Law School) just finished their ICP experience in December.
- Three faculty members participated in the Heartland Delta Faculty Conversations in February, which focused on the suppression and restoration of the Jesuits. After they returned, the three faculty members made a presentation on the conference with Jesuit Fathers Gerlich and Nicoll to over 20 faculty/staff.
- A new international immersion service trip in Kingston, Jamaica is being planned for Faculty, Staff and Alumni in May. The eight-day trip will overlap with the undergraduate trip and will allow 10-12 participants to work with the disadvantaged youth and elderly.
- A new Pilgrimage to Spain in June 2015 has been announced, led by Jesuits Ted Dziak, S.J. and Bob Gerlich, S.J. Alumni, faculty/staff and Board members are invited to participate.
- Loyola is linking with ‘Jesuit Commons’ an international Jesuit initiative to offer online courses to refugees around the world. Faculty Dr. Jane Chauvin will be participating in the Jesuit Commons program as Facilitator in Africa next year.
Upcoming Events:

- ‘A Lenten Series on the Ignatian Spirituality’ will be offered during Lent with four Jesuits speaking on Wednesdays on each of the four weeks of the Spiritual Exercises, co-sponsored by the Alumni Association. In addition, a Lenten Retreat in Daily Life (March 19 to April 9) will be offered to all faculty/staff and alumni with on-line opportunities also available.
- University Ministry hosted a Taize prayer service in late February 24, with visiting monks from the Taize community in France.

Other:

- There is a new Interim College of Law Chaplain, Carol Magendie, who started in January.
- Jesuit Provincial Mark Lewis, S.J. will be the 2014 Baccalaureate Mass homilist on May 9 at 4pm. Fr. Bob Gerlich, S.J. will be the homilist for the Law Graduation Mass on May 8 at 3:30pm.

3. Finance and Administration:

We began the year, as you know, with a smaller First Year class and since our budget is based on enrollment we started the year facing a $7.5 million shortfall. Since then we have taken a number of important steps since last May to address these challenges. As we looked at different options I stressed that we needed to make decisions that would protect and enhance the mission of the University and that we should protect as many jobs as possible.

Our first step was to initiate stricter controls on both our hiring and our expenditures.

Our next major step was to initiate a Voluntary Severance Program (VSP). The program was developed in the fall and implemented. In the end, forty-six (46) employees decided to participate in the program (26 Staff and 20 Faculty Members).

The VSP was followed by Reduction in Force (RIF) which affected 18 members of our staff. I know that if you are one of the Staff members directly affected by the reductions it has been a challenging event. However, I said last summer that I wanted to protect as many positions as possible. The Reduction in Force affected just under two percent of Loyola employees.

The VSP along with the RIF were successful in reducing both the Salary Budget ($6,250,000) and Fringe Benefits Budget ($1,250,000) by a total of $7,500,000. Because these steps were taken at mid-year we will still have a deficit for this year. The full effect will not be measurable until next year.

As I said in the beginning we are taking other steps to control our expenses such as monitoring faculty and staff vacancies, unallocated budgets, a reduction in hours and months for Staff employees.
2013-14 Financials:

As reported to the Board of Trustees in December, 2013, the university’s operations for the fiscal year 2013-14 are still projected at this time to result in a Deficit of $4.3 million.

Endowment:

Overall, 2013 was a very good year for Loyola’s Endowment, which in aggregate returned 19.3% net-of-fees and ended the calendar year with a market value of $286.6M. The underlying Unrestricted and Restricted Pools returned 14.5% and 28.3% respectively, handily surpassing our benchmarks. The market value for the Unrestricted Pool was $177.5 million as of December 31, 2013, whereas the value of the Restricted Pool stood at $109.1 million at year-end.

Facilities:

All projects are on schedule and on budget.

Monroe Hall:

In December three academic departments—Biology, Graphic Design, and Psychology—moved into newly renovated space in Monroe Hall. The greenhouses on the top of Monroe are installed, and we expect will be available for use by March. The large crane was removed in February. The overall project is on schedule, with completion expected in 2015.

4. Institutional Advancement:

During the period since the last meeting of the board of trustees, the OIA has focused its efforts on being operationally ready for the launch of the public phase of the campaign and on supporting the university’s efforts to reconcile the $7.5M budget deficit resulting from an enrollment shortfall of first year undergraduate students for AY 13-14.

Some key highlights during this period follow:

Through execution of a hiring freeze, the voluntary severance program, and a reduction in force, the Office of Institutional Advancement successfully met its goal of a 10% reduction in its salary budget.

- The recommendation was made to me that the launch of the public phase of the campaign should take place in the Fall 2014. We will let the Board know once we set the date in the fall.

- We are approaching $40 million in commitments from Loyola’s alumni and friends to the Faith in the Future campaign. As of this writing, a 6-figure written and signed commitment from Whitney Bank is imminent. In addition, we are close to realizing the proceeds from a large planned gift. Consequently, in the coming weeks we will be well past $40 million in gifts and commitments to the campaign.

- We have also made significant progress on the articulation of our case statements and on soliciting membership for campaign committees. Committee chairs have already been
selected for the Monroe Hall, Loyola Loyal (Loyola Fund), and the Multimedia Center volunteer fund raising committees.

- We have done some reorganization of the office Staff. Monique Gardner transitioned to the role of Director of Planned Giving, while Laurie Leiva was promoted to Director of Alumni Relations.

- The Loyola Loyal Program continues to thrive. From August 1, 2013 to February 1, 2014 we have raised more money and solicited more new gifts than during the entire duration of FY13.

- The Office of Alumni Relations is responsible for all aspects of the Class Reunion Program including the identification and training of reunion volunteers and overall event execution. To date a total of 58 volunteers are serving on Class Reunion committees representing a significant increase over the 38 committee volunteers from FY13. As of February 1, 2014 a total of $183,010 has been contributed to the Loyola Fund as part of the Class Reunion Program and we are on track to exceed the total amount of contributions secured during FY13.

- The Marketing and Communication team continued to support the university’s enrollment efforts, provided support for the forthcoming launch of the Faith in the Future campaign, and provided general marketing and communication’s operational support to the university.

I think it is worth noting, for reasons of context, that the University’s last comprehensive campaign was the Thresholds campaign which closed at the end of 1998 and achieved a goal of $51.2 million. My own view is that a university should always have some kind of campaign underway. The fact that we haven’t had a campaign for over sixteen years both gives us an opportunity to re-engage people and tells you the work we have to do.

5. Government Relations:

Federal Update

FY 2014 Budget Agreement

On January 16th, the Congress sent a $1.1 trillion omnibus spending bill to the president for his signature.

Included in the bill were 11 separate appropriations bills, including the FY 2014 Labor/HHS/Education appropriations bill and funding for all of the education programs.

Overall, the Department of Education saw a $1.6 billion increase in funding over the FY 2013 sequester cuts. Included were the following funding levels for financial aid programs:

- $85 increase in the maximum Pell Award, which brings the maximum grant up to $5,730
• Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) saw a $37 million increase in funding which essentially restored the cuts from the sequestration cuts

• $49 million increase in funding for Federal Work Study

This increased funding will be distributed to students during the 2014/2015 academic year.

Finally, due to the late hour of the agreement on the 2014 budget, the Obama administration has postponed the release of their 2015 budget until March 4, which is a full month behind schedule.

Higher Education Act Reauthorization

On January 1, the 2008 version of the Higher Education Act expired and Congress is now officially late in their reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. This is certainly no surprise. During the last reauthorization cycle, Congress repeatedly postponed action on reauthorization and finally passed the bill 6 years late.

The Staff from both the House and Senate committees have been realistic when asked about the prospects of any legislative action in 2014 and have stated that hearings may be held, but passage by either committee is unlikely due to election year politics.

Regulatory Commission

In late November of last year, Senator Lamar Alexander, a former Secretary of Education, led a group of senators who have called for the creation of a task force to study the regulatory burden that all institutions of higher education face.

The 16-member task force has been charged with conducting a comprehensive review of the regulatory requirements affecting colleges and universities, with a focus on regulations stemming from both Congress and the Department. The goal is for the commission to make recommendations to be included in the new Higher Education Act that ease the burden on institutions, while at the same time maintaining important student and taxpayer protections.

State Update

Last month, Governor Jindal announced an increase in $141 million for state funding of higher education. However, if one examines that figure a little closer, over $93 million comes from an increase in tuition at state institutions. This will likely provide Loyola’s Louisiana residents who qualify for TOPS a small increase in their TOPS award starting next fall.

In addition to the tuition hike, a new $40 million workforce incentive fund was announced that will allow state institutions to receive an increase in state funding should they increase the number of graduates in targeted STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. To receive the state funds, institutions must obtain cash, or an in kind, donation from private sources equaling 20% of the state grant.

While private institutions are not currently eligible for this $40 million incentive fund, Loyola and the other private institutions will certainly be pushing for an increase in state funding for privates in some form in the upcoming legislative session.
The 2014 Legislative session begins on March 10th and runs through June 2nd.

6. Civic:

I continue to serve as Chair of the Civil Service Commission. And, through a recent voter initiative university presidents are now the nominating committee for the Sewage and Water Board. Tommy Screen is helping me meet these responsibilities.

7. Goals:

I think it is helpful to recall that my goals for the year, established with the Board in my evaluation process are:

1. Focus on Institutional Advancement and Enrollment
2. Oversee the evaluation of Loyola 2012 and the development of a new strategic plan
3. Remain involved civically
4. Professional development