Kevin Wm. Wildes, S.J.

President’s Report

February 25, 2011

The material for the meeting includes reports and updates for each area of the University. In my Report, I would like to highlight certain elements of the other reports and our work on the implementation of Loyola 2012. For the May Board meeting, I will submit to the Board and the University community a comprehensive update on the implementation of Loyola 2012.

1. Enrollment:

Undergraduate Admissions

We have continued to grow demand for a Loyola undergraduate education. Applications have been at record levels each of the last two years, and fall 2011 application activity is 20% better than last year. Visits to campus are up more than 20% as well. We expect to enroll 850 first year students and another 125 transfers, thereby supporting the budget to fund the continuance of the master plan. We have reduced the discount rate for our entering classes over the last three years, moving from 55% in 2008 to a projected 49% in 2011 (each 1% means approximately $250,000).

During that time, we have increased need-based funding slightly (while slightly reducing merit scholarships). This has allowed us to extend the mission to a large group of students each year and increase the odds of their persistence to graduation.

We have expanded athletic recruitment and funded more athletic scholarships as a means of increasing enrollment and retention.

We have increased international recruitment in the spirit of the increased internationalization of the university.

Due to consistently larger admissions pools, we have slightly increased selectivity, moving from 62% to a projected 56% acceptance rate. This assists our reputation and stature and improves our position in the rankings.

Retention

Our student success/retention position is rare. We have one person fully focused on the retention of our students (Liz Rainey). This position has allowed us to do more in the area of retention.

We have had early successes, moving first to second year retention from 73% to 80%; and then from 80% to 82%. The gradual shift toward more need-based funding in our financial aid strategy will support the graduation chances of our neediest students. All retention strategies loop back to our admissions work as we work to recruit increasingly “retainable” classes. We are working to increase academic early warning participation and seeking support in encouraging successful September starts for all students. We continue to communicate with parents to inform them and to garner their support in helping us with their students’ first year transitions.

We are also focusing on graduation rates and, through the Executive Success committee and in consultation with the colleges, are working to identify, mentor, and assist at-risk students.
Graduate and Professional Programs

We are also working with the graduate and professional programs on their marketing plans and long-term budget goals. We have begun working with them to grow demand. Increasingly, we will work with them on persistence and graduation rates.

Enrollment models and staffing will soon be investigated as we consider longer-term options and performance expectations.

2. Academic and Student Affairs:

Academic and Student Affairs are engaged in implementing all of the action plans for which this office has responsibilities, including plans not scheduled to start implementation until fall 2011.

Enhance Jesuit Values

The Report on Academic Affairs details the faculty support given to assist faculty in finding expression of the University’s Jesuit/Catholic mission and identity in academic programming. Also, we have continued to develop structures of collaboration with the Jesuit Network which describes our contributions in both traditional and uniquely collaborative initiatives.

Improve Student Retention

This goal is receiving a great deal of attention and meriting important success for us. The First Year Experience program has been fully developed and implemented and it involves a true integration of Academic and Student Affairs. All first-year students enrolled in a first-year seminar.

- Loyola’s FYE program was recognized by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition. Administrators Melanie McKay (Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs) and Roberta Kaskel (Director, Career Development Center) were named to the national honor roll of Outstanding First-Year Student Advocates.

- For the academic year 2010-2011, the number of athletic programs increased to 12 with the addition of men's tennis. Also, the number of participating student athletes has increased to over 125, a 40 % increase since 2008. The increase is due to added programs and intentional increases in roster sizes from existing programs. Projected growth is expected as more programs are added through 2015. Men's tennis began its inaugural season in spring 2011.

- We have continued to develop co-curricular programming such as the iLIVE (Ignatius Loyola Institute for Values Education), the Emerging Leaders Program, the Cardoner Program, programming for Commuter Students done in collaboration with the Student Government Association, and the Sophomore Initiative.
We are also benchmarking our work to assess student learning outcomes so that a Loyola education truly seeks to educate the whole person.

Enhance Reputation and Stature

- Enhance the Common Curriculum
  - The renewed Common Curriculum was approved in December 2010. This approval came after five years of intensive, collaborative work by the faculty. The faculty, deans and Common Curriculum Implementation Task Force are commended for their efforts to provide opportunities for review and comment and to find solutions for difficult issues.

- Program Accreditation and Certification
  - The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching awarded Loyola University New Orleans its Community Engagement Classification, recognizing the university’s long tradition of partnering with and reaching out to its wider community.

- Internationalization of the University
  - There was a 24% increase in the number of international students from Fall 2009 (88 students) to Fall 2010 (115 students). 30% of Loyola undergraduate students graduate with an academic experience abroad and the numbers continue to increase. The number of undergraduate students studying for a semester or year increased by more than 80% between 2009-10 and 2010-11

Decanal Searches

Law Dean’s Search: At this writing, four finalists have visited campus for interviews. Right now, I am awaiting the input of the Law faculty after which I will make a decision and we will extend an offer.

Library Dean Search: Three or four finalists will visit campus within the next few weeks. I should have recommendations from the search committee sometime in early April at which time I will make a decision and extend an offer.

3. Mission:

Benson Jesuit Center

Over 20 architectural firms responded to the RFQ sent out for the design and renovation of the old Library into the Tom Benson Jesuit Center. Five architectural firms were interviewed and one firm, Holly and Smith, with offices in New Orleans, was selected. A M&M steering committee will meet with the architects every two weeks, with meetings held with various
interest groups during the next four months. These meetings are the first step in determining what the renovated building will encompass.

**Faculty/Staff Development**

In a new position focused solely on faculty and staff development, Dr. Ricardo Marquez from the Jesuit University in Venezuela was hired in Fall 2010. He has already facilitated eight activities involving 91 faculty and 54 staff members since September. Fifteen faculty, staff, and senior administrators are participating in national Jesuit programs this year. These range from the Ignatian Colleagues program (4), AJCU Leadership conference (5), to Heartland Delta Faculty Conversations (5) and a new Catholic intellectual initiative called Collegium.

- Two new international immersion service programs are being offered to Loyola faculty/staff, including a program in Belize facilitated by LIM Director Dr. Tom Ryan with 14 participants, and a program in Jamaica in May in collaboration with the Alumni Association. In a new collaboration, the School of Nursing brought faculty member Dr. Adrienne Bethancourt to Kingston, Jamaica with students to work with children with special needs. This program will be expanded to School of Nursing graduate students, faculty, and alumni in the near future.


- An Ignatian Silent Retreat for faculty, staff, and alumni took place January 7-9, 2011 with 28 participants in addition to 12 faculty, staff, and Jesuits who volunteered as speakers and/or spiritual directors.

**Student Faith Development**

- A new developmentally-focused retreat program was initiated by Assistant Director Laura Quigley. A new Freshman Retreat was held in the fall with 24 participants, while the Awakening retreat was held with almost 100 students. The Emmaus Retreat, step three of our new retreat developmental model, took place in January with 17 student participants and 7 staff directors. The annual Senior Retreat will take place February 18-19 and the next Awakening retreat is on March 25-27.

- Christian life Communities (CLC) have grown with almost 50 participants in 8 currently established CLC’s. Loyola New Orleans has been chosen to receive a substantial grant from the national CLC office for young adults to train facilitators to provide post-graduate CLC’s for local alumni and young adults in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

- Ignacio Volunteers: Programs continued to expand with over 60 students traveling to Jamaica and Belize in the summer and winter. Belize expanded its Christmas Camp
program to include a new camp in the village Interfaith Ministry: A student Interfaith Advisory Council has been established by graduate intern, Sam Bradley.

- Sixty-nine students, faculty and staff participated in a *Hare Krishna* discussion and meal on February 2.
- Plans are underway for the annual *Seder Meal* on campus to take place April 7. Collaborative events are being planned with the newly constructed Hillel Center near campus.
- An interfaith service day will take place in conjunction with the Women’s Resource Center “Love Your Body Week.”

**Liturgy, Music & Sacramental Preparation**

- Student liturgical ministers have been studying the U.S. Bishops’ documents on liturgy and are preparing to help the university community implement the new Roman Missal starting in Advent 2011.

- Archbishop Aymond will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at Loyola on May 1, 2011 at the 9 p.m., Ignatius Chapel Mass. Fifteen candidates are in preparation for the sacrament.

**General Activities and Planning**

- Archbishop Aymond hosted New Orleans-area Catholic campus ministry directors from Loyola, Tulane, Xavier, Holy Cross and UNO at his home on February 2 for the regular bi-monthly meeting coordinated by the Director of Young Adult Ministry for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. The Archbishop also hosted over 100 students, faculty and staff of the College of Law at his home on February 10 for a prayer service and discussion. Chaplain Arlene Wiltz coordinated the event.

4. **Finance and Administration:**

**Finance**

The university’s operations for the fiscal year 2010-11 are still projected at this time to result in a deficit of $2.5 million which will be offset by $2.6 million of Business Interruption Insurance, resulting in a Net Surplus of $100,000.

**Endowment**

In 2010, the Loyola University portfolio benefitted from the strengthening economic recovery and subsequent stock market rally. The unrestricted fund returned 12.0% for the full calendar year 2010. This was 20 basis points below the 12.2% return of the funds benchmark, a 60-40 blend of the S&P 500 and the Barclays Aggregate Index. The market value for the unrestricted portfolio was $184.0 million as of December 31, 2010 - a market level that was unchanged from the 2009 ending value due mostly to the draw downs/withdrawals by the university.
The restricted fund rose from $69.6 million to $76.6 million as a result of a 12.3% overall return for the portfolio.

**Facilities**

*Phase I Projects*

**Thomas Hall**

Cleaning and restoration of the building façade continues, while interior construction progresses on schedule. Completion is anticipated for May 2011.

**West Road Garage**

All major concrete pours have been completed, and the tower crane was removed over the Christmas break. Construction should be complete and all parking spaces available by the end of February 2011.

**Law Clinic**

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

**Central Plant / Infrastructure**

The new chiller and associated upgrades have been installed. Completion of this project is scheduled for April 2011.

*Phase II Projects*

The Monroe Hall renovation and New Student Center/Residence Hall projects, as well as a renovation of Cabra Hall, have completed the schematic design phase, and are in design development. A presentation of the final plans will be presented to the Board as part of the retreat.

The designs are now out for independent cost estimations. I will review all options, in light of the estimates, with my team and make a set of recommendations to the Facilities (and Finance) Committee.

**Benson Jesuit Center**

The architectural firm of Holly and Smith was chosen to begin the design process for the development of the old Library.
5. Institutional Advancement:

The Advancement Office’s efforts have been focused on: (1) improving the Office’s return on investment; (2) ensuring its readiness to initiate the Leadership Phase of a comprehensive campaign and on presenting to the Advancement Committee my formal recommendation in this regard no later than the May 2011 meeting of the Board of Trustees; (3) continuing the Office’s work on enhancing the university’s external reputation by improving Loyola’s ranking in *U.S. News & World Report*’s Regional Universities (South); and in coordination with the Provost’s Office (4) planning and coordinating the university-wide Centennial celebration activities.

(1) **Improving the office’s return on investment:** as discussed at last advancement committee meeting, six educational institutions for the purpose of benchmarking advancement activities have been selected. The institutions selected are: Xavier University in Cincinnati, Trinity University in San Antonio, Villanova University, University of Santa Clara, Rollins College, and the University of Richmond. Bill Bishop had initial conversations with colleagues in each of these institutions and his team is proceeding to have detailed conversations with their respective counterparts. While trend line analysis will allow us to evaluate how efficiently we are doing the activities that we do from one year to the next, our conversations with representatives from these institutions will assist us in determining the effectiveness of our activities.

A quick look at the numbers also reveals that we are currently on track to meet our fund raising dollar goals for this year. Our goal for *unrestricted giving this year is $760,000* and as of February 9, 2011, we have raised – in cash gifts and commitments -- $544,820, or approximately 72% of our annual goal. We also established a *$15M total goal* for all giving for this year, and as of February 9, 2011, we currently have achieved 72.3%, or $10.845M.

(2) **Ensuring the Office of Institutional Advancement is ready to initiate the Leadership Phase of a comprehensive campaign and presenting to the Advancement Committee a formal recommendation no later than the May 2011 meeting of the Board of Trustees:** We are making steady progress in this area. The Institutional Advancement Committee established an internal working group, the Campaign Organizing Group (COG) at its December 2010 meeting. The COG had its first meeting on February 8, 2011. The next meeting will be conducted during the week of February 27 – March 5, 2011. The purposes of the COG are (1) to provide the president and the IA VP for Advancement with advice and counsel about campaign operations, policies and procedures, and (2) to educate and guide the University Trustees as they assume increasing ownership through Board votes on fundraising priorities and campaign objectives.

(3) **The Advancement Office will continue to work on enhancing the university’s external reputation by improving Loyola’s ranking in *U.S. News & World Report*’s Regional Universities (South).** Enhancing Loyola’s reputation and stature help to increase demand and attract more and better students. We also believe that Loyola’s reputation and stature are integral to the “equity” of the Loyola degree. As a result of the feedback we received from a recent alumni survey, administered in early summer 2010, we will continue to solicit feedback from and communicate to alumni how their diplomas are increasing in equity.

(4) **In coordination with the Provost’s Office, planning and coordinating university-wide Centennial celebration activities.** Good progress is also being made in this endeavor. A Centennial logo has been presented to the president’s cabinet by the Centennial Committee and a
decision is forthcoming. Similarly, the “theme” for the year-long Centennial activities was presented to the Centennial Committee on February 17, 2011, and the recommendation from the Committee will be presented to the president’s cabinet soon. Consideration is being given to how the Centennial celebrations and activities will set the stage for the university’s comprehensive campaign. An outline of key events/activities for the Centennial celebrations is taking shape and an initial budget for these university-wide, “signature” events has been presented.

6. Government Relations:

Congress is currently debating how deep to cut a number of important federal financial aid programs for the remainder of this federal fiscal year and next. What is certain is the dissolution of Federal Academic Competitiveness and SMART Grants. Loyola students received $285,000 from these programs in 2010-2011. We have known about this for one year and have made the necessary plans in constructing our 2011-2012 financial aid budget.

What is yet to be determined by Congress is how deep the cuts to the Pell Grant and The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants will be. Currently, 850 Loyola students received $3,500,000 in Pell grants in 2010-2011; and 407 received $290,000 from FSEOG. In this environment of cost cutting on Capitol Hill, our hope is that Congress will follow the President’s recommendation for FY ’12 and keep the maximum Pell Grant at its’ current level and maintain level funding for the SEOG program. Unfortunately, the news for the remainder of FY ’11 has not been good. Recently, the House of Representatives voted to cut Pell Grants by 15% and eliminate funding for the SEOG program entirely for the remainder of this fiscal year. It is unclear at this point, whether the Senate will follow suit.

As mentioned above, President Obama recently released his proposed Fiscal Year 2012 budget. The good news is that he seeks to retain the Pell Grant maximum at $5,550 and keeps SEOG funding level. The debate on the funding for FY ’12 will take place in the coming months after the decisions on the current fiscal year cuts are made.

In the meantime, the university is preparing for how to handle this potential $755,500 shortfall in federal financial aid in 2011-2012. I have asked Sal Liberto to chair a small working group with Jay Calamia, Ed Kvet, and Tommy Screen to monitor the Federal programs and develop plans for us so that we can assist needy students who are enrolled. In addition, I recently met with members of the Congressional delegation to impress upon them the importance of level funding, or at least minimizing the cuts to, the federal financial aid programs. We will certainly keep the Board apprised as this story and Congressional action warrants.

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. Audit:

There will be one action item from the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee recommends approval of the audit firm of Deloitte & Touche, LLP, for fiscal year 2010-2011. All of the Federal filings have been completed and there are no issues. The Information Technology audit was completed by LaPorte, Sehrt, Romig, and Hand in December and there were no material or significant findings were noted.

9. 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

10. Civic:

I remain on the Commission for the Public Belt Railroad. At the moment, I am chairing the sub-committee on governance. I believe we will finish the first phase of our work soon and send recommendations to the Mayor. The legal framework for the PBRR in a mix of City ordinance and State law and so will require legislative changes at both levels. I have been talking with the Mayor about other ways that I may be helpful.