DRAFT CASES FOR SUPPORT

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Scholarships

I. Background

The rising cost of college tuition—and the corresponding rise in our nation’s collective student loan debt—is something every American involved in higher education must confront. The cost of college tuition has roughly tripled since the 1980s, outpacing both inflation and family income. In the past two years alone, the cost of tuition nationwide has increased nearly 15 percent. A multiplicity of factors are responsible for this trend, but while the ongoing struggle in legislative and other bodies continues over systematic reforms to address the issue, one thing remains clear: The ability of universities such as Loyola University New Orleans to enroll the best students regardless of their economic standing will rely on private donor support to augment scholarship funds.

In its commitment to making a Loyola education accessible to all with sufficient ability and willingness to work hard, Loyola’s leadership has set a goal as part of the Faith in the Future campaign to raise $20 million in philanthropic investments in scholarship support for current and future Loyola students.

II. Scholarships are fundamental to characteristics Loyola holds dear

Loyola’s history of providing scholarships to students is responsible for many of the characteristics on which the university prides itself. These include our campus’s diversity, our long history of educating students who are the first in their families to attend college, our dedication to holistic education, and our commitment to academic excellence. Currently, 65 percent of our students receive need-based financial aid, and about 30 percent of our students are eligible for Pell grants, which serve some of the most economically challenged students. In the face of increasingly high tuition costs, Loyola’s leadership has renewed its commitment to increasing need-based and other scholarship support.

A Diverse Campus

According to a fundamental tenet of Jesuit education, Loyola strives to educate students to be “men and women with and for others.” This does not mean simply that students learn to act unselfishly—it means that they learn to transcend differences between people who are not like them in order to find common understanding and goals, and to work together toward a more just world. The wide range of backgrounds from which Loyola’s students come speaks directly to this goal, and is dependent in large part on donor-supported scholarships.

When national advisors visited Loyola in 2010 to conduct an assessment for the Faith in the Future campaign, they described Loyola’s campus as “effortlessly diverse,” meaning that the university naturally possesses a degree of diversity that others work very hard to achieve. This trait has been recognized publicly as well—in 2011, U.S. News and World Report ranked Loyola first in the entire nation in the category “Lots of race and class interaction.” However, the assessment of the national advisors was not precisely correct—Loyola’s diversity is neither “natural” nor “effortless” and comes only as the result of a staunch commitment to maintaining a
diverse student body. This commitment hinges in large part in our ability to provide scholarships to students from diverse backgrounds, and those scholarships depend directly on donor support.

First-Generation Students

Loyola has a long history of educating students who are the first in their families to attend college. First-generation students comprise roughly 30 percent of our current student body. Educating first-generation students is a special task that affects not only the student receiving a Loyola education, but, in many cases, each generation of his or her family that follows. These students face challenges particular to their situations—social, familial, economic—and Loyola has gone to great lengths to remove as many obstacles for them as possible. We provide them programs such as the First Year Experience to immerse them in the tight-knit campus community, but just as crucial are scholarships specifically for first-generation students, such as the Kloor First-Generation University Student Scholarship, the First-Generation Student Endowed Scholarship in Music and Fine Arts, and the RosaMary Foundation First-Generation Scholarship in the College of Music and Fine Arts.

The best of our first-generation students have gone on not only to see their children and grandchildren attend universities, but have made transformative impacts on the lives of many. Frank France, founder of the Kehoe-France schools in metro New Orleans and the 2011 recipient of Loyola’s *Integretas Vitae* award, was a first-generation Loyola student. He is the son of an oyster fisherman, and he attended Loyola in the 1940s on a basketball scholarship. Mr. France attributes his enrollment at Loyola and his subsequent successes to the fact that Loyola offered him a scholarship. The school he co-founded with his wife has gone on to educate thousands of students, many of whom went on to attend Loyola. Although he is an extraordinary example, Mr. France is also living proof of the importance and impact of providing scholarship assistance to first-generation students.

A Commitment to Excellence

Loyola’s ability to provide an inspiring, engaging student experience depends on our ability to attract academically gifted students who elevate the intellectual life of the university, talented artists who inspire their classmates and teachers, powerful student-athletes who stretch our belief in what is possible, and service-minded student leaders committed to improving others’ lives as they pursue their own educations. Our ability to attract these types of outstanding students—who not only succeed for themselves on their own merits but motivate those around them with their achievements—is directly tied to the merit-based scholarships we can provide them in a competitive higher education market.

The students Loyola traditionally enrolls with the support of merit-based scholarships contribute outsized returns to the university with their accomplishments. Students such as Ignatian Scholar Leah Birch not only improve life on campus with hard work, research, and inspiration to her fellow students, but raise Loyola’s reputation nationally. While attending Loyola on an Ignatian Scholarship, Ms. Birch conducted research that led her to win a prestigious award from the Goldwater Foundation that allowed her to study at the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics at the University of California, Los Angeles. This work helped her earn admission to graduate school at Harvard University, where she continues her groundbreaking mathematics
research. Ms. Birch counts as one of many Loyola scholarship students who now operate in the highest echelons of their field, and whose triumphs directly associate Loyola with academic excellence.

**Target Areas for Scholarships**

The Faith in the Future campaign’s goal of $20 million for scholarships will be directed toward three primary types of awards: need-based scholarships, talent-based scholarships for the arts and athletics, and those awarded on the basis of academic merit.

**Need-based scholarships**

As the nationwide recession continues alongside rising tuition costs, Loyola and other universities are left with the simple fact that many people will be unable to achieve higher education without financial support. Loyola’s president, Fr. Kevin W. Wildes, S.J., affirms that, in light of this fact, Loyola will make providing need-based scholarships to worthy students a top priority. Loyola’s tuition is currently just under $34,000 a year, plus room and board. For many people, a potential four-year tuition bill of more than $130,000 is an insurmountable financial obstacle without financial support. A substantial percentage of our outstanding students overcome this obstacle only with the help of need-based scholarships. Loyola’s Faith in the Future campaign has taken into consideration that the demand for need-based scholarships is growing stronger, and has thus made it a significant focus.

Our initial goal for need-based scholarships is to raise $13 million in the Faith in the Future campaign.

**Scholarships for our most talented students**

Loyola is committed to providing holistic Jesuit education that enriches the mind, body, and spirit of each student. This goal is instrumental to our mission as a Jesuit institution, and to achieve it we rely on support for scholarships that help us attract artists and athletes of significant talent and academic ability.

The recipients of our artistic and athletic scholarships often act as conduits between Loyola, the public, and other universities during their performances and competitions. More than a few come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, so the talent scholarships not only recognize and award their hard work and great abilities, but also address a financial need.

Our College of Music and Fine Arts hosts dozens of students at any given time who are attending Loyola only with the help of talent scholarships. The CMFA is the best college of fine and performing arts among any Jesuit college or university in the United States, and one of the best in the American South. It would not be so without students who receive talent scholarships.

Wolfpack Athletics offers Loyola students the means to develop their bodies as well as their minds, apply critical decision-making skills in a competitive environment, and to build camaraderie among participants and fans alike. The scholarships that allow many of our best
student-athletes to participate in these programs work directly to fulfill Loyola’s mission of providing holistic education, and help our teams inspire and solidify Loyola community spirit.

Support for our most gifted scholars

Among the students Loyola strives most to enroll are those who stand above and beyond their peers in terms of academic merit. Loyola has held fast to a standard of academic excellence throughout its existence, and defines itself as an institution that produces world-class graduates. Our outstanding faculty and the curricula they design can accommodate students with unsurpassed academic potential, but our ability to attract these students in the face of competition from the nation’s top universities depends on the scholarships we can offer them.

Students who receive our top merit scholarships work closely with faculty, conducting important research that rivals any at larger institutions with access to a more robust pool of graduate assistants. The accelerated pace at which they learn and achieve creates increasingly high benchmarks for what constitutes academic success at Loyola, enhancing the intellectual life of the entire university. But while many superb students are attracted to Loyola for its Jesuit principles, vibrant campus, and innovative interdisciplinary programs, they are strongly courted by other universities offering great financial incentives. In order to maintain and increase the degree of academic excellence among our student body, Loyola must receive the support of donors who fund merit-based academic scholarships.

Our initial Faith in the Future campaign goal for talent and academic merit scholarships is $7 million.

Endowed and Immediate-Use Scholarships

Through the Faith in the Future campaign, Loyola seeks and will accept with gratitude both endowed and immediate-use scholarships, depending on the donor’s needs and philanthropic vision.

**Endowed scholarship funds** support students at Loyola in perpetuity. Working with the university, the donor makes a gift to establish a distinct scholarship fund, named according to the donor’s wishes and in accordance with Loyola’s Naming Policy. This fund generates income when invested by Loyola according to the university’s investment policy, and that income provides the scholarship. Loyola welcomes donor input into establishing the criteria for awarding endowed scholarships to students, though the university prefers maximum flexibility in awarding funds in order to best meet the needs of students in any given year.

A gift of $25,000 is the minimum required to establish a named endowed scholarship fund. Such a fund would typically yield approximately $1,250 to support a student each year, in perpetuity. Similarly, a gift of $100,000 would generate approximately $5,000 each year in perpetuity; a gift of $5 million would generate $250,000 each year in perpetuity.

Establishing an endowed fund is a testament to a donor’s faith in Loyola’s long-term ability to educate students in the Jesuit tradition and to meet their needs year in and year out.
Immediate-use scholarship funds are scholarship gifts made to the university with the donor’s intent being that the fund will be dispersed fully to deserving students as quickly as is appropriate. Loyola accepts such funds in any amount and works closely with donors to meet their wishes as closely as possible as we serve our students.

Immediate-use scholarship funds make an immediate impact and are especially valuable for helping students who encounter unanticipated life events, such as a death in the family or natural disaster.

Board of Regents Matching Programs

Private contributions of $60,000 or more toward scholarships for first-generation students are eligible for a $40,000 match by the Louisiana Board of Regents. Under current regulations, Loyola University New Orleans is allotted one such “matching grant” per year, although if funds are available Loyola may be eligible for more than one such match in a given year.

Scholarship Funding for Now and the Future

As part of the Faith in the Future campaign, Loyola University New Orleans seeks to raise $20 million dollars to support merit, talent, and need-based scholarships. This amounts to a large portion of the total amount of the campaign goal, but its proportion is equivalent to the amount scholarship funds will benefit the university.

The campaign seeks to raise $13 million to allocate to need-based scholarships, a bold action in recognition of the increasing financial challenges to entering American higher education. We seek $7 million for talent- and merit-based scholarships that will assure Loyola can continue to attract the absolute best students, whose achievements inspire their fellow students and enhance the university’s reputation.

Naming Opportunities

Scholarship donors will be able to name individual scholarships, both endowed and annual, according to the Naming Policy of Loyola University New Orleans. As the students who receive scholarships proceed through their educations and lives with great accomplishments, donors’ names will be attached to them, indicating their part in those students’ successes and good work.
The Loyola Fund: Unrestricted Gifts for the Work of Loyola’s Leadership

The bold vision of Loyola University New Orleans requires flexible funding that university leadership can use in light of needs that arise daily in the life of a vibrant university. When you give to Loyola without restriction, you give Loyola’s president and his leadership team funds and the flexibility they sometimes need; you also communicate to them your confidence in Loyola’s educational mission and their efforts to pursue it. Simply put, unrestricted gifts to the Loyola Fund are the university’s means of prudently funding the ongoing operations of the university.

Like any business, social enterprise, or other large institution, Loyola needs funds each fiscal year to meet the real needs of its people—and at the core of the university’s mission are our students. Loyola’s faculty, staff, and leadership work according to carefully planned budgets, but each year presents new opportunities and challenges: a professor needs an additional piece of equipment to complete her research; a student loses a parent to illness; university insurance covers most damage from weather but sometimes leaves a real repair need unmet. In all of these and other cases, the Loyola Fund provides university leaders with a means of dealing with the real challenges of running a university.

Loyola’s president and his leadership team use your gift to the Loyola Fund for deliberate individual steps toward the university’s broader mission. For example, only by providing scholarships to students with need can we effectively adhere to the Jesuit educational tradition of imparting to students values such as thinking critically and acting justly. To enroll the best students, we need not only the outstanding reputation Loyola has earned over a century; we also need the means to attract and sustain professors whose abilities meet our standard of excellence.

Accordingly, the vast majority of the Loyola Fund is dedicated to human capital—the talented students, faculty, and staff members who bring Loyola to life. Loyola Fund gifts ultimately provide an individual the ability to perform an essential task—whether a student’s ability to use new technology, a librarian’s ability to expand special collections, or a professor’s ability to give attention to each student because his class is a manageable size.

Scholarships receive the most support from the Loyola Fund. This allows Loyola to enhance our intellectual environment by enrolling students from a wide variety of economic and ethnic backgrounds who share a common commitment to academic excellence. As they have for 100 years to thousands of families, Loyola scholarships frequently go to students who are the first in their families to attend college. Investments in the Loyola Fund are essential to enrolling first-generation and other students of exceptional promise.

The university awards a number of restricted and individually named scholarships supported by past gifts from donors. Supplementing this type of restricted aid, unrestricted scholarship aid from the Loyola Fund allows financial aid staff to be flexible in meeting the needs of students and the university in a given year. Students with financial need are those most often assisted by Loyola Fund aid.

A large portion of the Loyola Fund also goes toward supporting our ambitious, extraordinarily talented faculty, more than 50 percent of who have been hired since 2006. Many of our new
 professors come from the nation’s best graduate schools and help cultivate an elevated level of academic rigor. Investments in the Loyola Fund help Loyola offer students the small class sizes and personal attention for which we have become renowned. Your gift affirms your and Loyola’s commitment to the intellectual and professional interests of our professors.

Whether in these or other ways, giving without restriction to the Loyola Fund is among the best ways to ensure Loyola’s leadership has the resources to boldly pursue Loyola’s mission and lead the university into its second century.

In the Faith in the Future campaign, our goal is to raise $10 million in unrestricted gifts to the Loyola Fund by July 31, 2017. This ambitious goal, an average of over $1 million in unrestricted gifts per year, will ensure in each year of the campaign that Loyola’s leadership will be able to build and sustain the infrastructure that makes Loyola what it is and can be. Further, we believe that by using these funds effectively each year to pursue our mission, we will help to build among Loyola alumni and friends a longer-term base of Loyola Fund supporters who will help Loyola beyond the end of the Faith in the Future campaign and well into Loyola’s second century.

The university’s leadership is poised and capable of ensuring a strong start to Loyola’s second century. Their clear vision and sound management have inspired the faith of a wide cross-section of Loyola alumni, people in greater New Orleans and the Gulf South, and families all over the world interested in Jesuit higher education. Your investment in the Loyola Fund is a gesture of confidence in Loyola’s faculty and students, as well as in its leaders.
Monroe Hall: A Renewal for a New Century at Loyola

Loyola’s Most Important Academic Facility

Monroe Hall is Loyola’s largest and most diverse academic facility. Forty percent of all Loyola’s classes take place in Monroe Hall. It houses all of the university’s science research laboratories. Its auditorium, Nunemaker Hall, has hosted some of the most prestigious speakers to appear on Loyola’s campus. The teaching and research that takes place inside Monroe Hall constitutes an outsized proportion of the university’s academic life. Instruction in its classrooms and labs form the basis of countless Loyola students’ education in the liberal arts and sciences. Its foyers and corridors are living learning spaces where students and professors exchange ideas and insights. No other single building on campus is as important to the academic component of the Jesuit education Loyola provides its students. In short, Monroe Hall is essential to the academic and intellectual life of Loyola University New Orleans.

Piecemeal upgrades and reconfigurations have kept Monroe Hall a fully functioning facility for education, administration, and research since its construction in 1969. Despite the building’s aged infrastructure, Loyola faculty members have continued to make important scientific breakthroughs in its laboratories. Patricia Dorn, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences, has conducted groundbreaking research on Chagas disease that has earned her a global reputation, which in 2012 helped to bring to Loyola a prestigious international conference on infectious diseases—only the third time the conference has been held in the United States. Carl Brans, Ph.D., emeritus professor of physics, was elected in 2011 to a fellowship in the American Physical Society (APS) for his development of a theory alternative to Einstein’s general relativity—this is an honor the APS bestows on less than half a percent of its membership. Both Dorn and Brans have spent the majority of their careers working in Monroe Hall, and are among dozens of other professors—in disciplines ranging from sociology to mathematics—who contribute important scholarship to their fields while making Monroe Hall their professional home.

Even stronger than the research Loyola faculty members conduct alone is the university’s commitment to involving undergraduate students in collaborative research. Loyola’s relatively low student-to-faculty ratio (11:1) and strong dedication to teaching have resulted in its professors and students working together in meaningful ways on research often published in the nation’s top peer-reviewed journals. Some of Loyola’s most widespread and successful undergraduate research programs—such as the Summer Collaborative Outreach and Research Experience (SCORE)—are headquartered in Monroe Hall, and countless other faculty-undergraduate collaborations take place within its walls. These research collaborations dramatically supplement classroom instruction by engaging students in experiential learning and cultivating a rich culture of mentorship. Undergraduate research is instrumental in attracting and retaining some of Loyola’s best students—many of whom are from minority backgrounds—and most of this research occurs in Monroe Hall.

The achievements and essential programs and projects that have taken place over the past 43 years in Monroe Hall are testament to the facility’s importance to Loyola. Thousands of young men and women have engaged in discussions and taken in lectures in its classrooms that have
formed the foundation of their Jesuit educations. As the caliber of academic achievement continues to rise at Loyola, our students and faculty require an improved facility—one that matches their degree of excellence. As part of Loyola’s coordinated effort to enhance our physical campus, we have undertaken a dramatic overhaul of Monroe Hall that will transform the building to meet their needs. Much of the funding for this $93 million project will come through careful budgeting and the support of a bond issue, but a minimum of $13 million must come through philanthropy.

The J. Edgar Monroe Foundation and the Edward G. Schlieder Foundation have committed to leadership gifts over the next several years in support of Monroe Hall’s renovation. We are counting on others with bold visions of what Loyola can achieve to join these generous foundations in helping us realize the transformation of Monroe Hall. Its renovation will allow this crucial part of our built environment to accommodate the record level of talented students Loyola has recently been able to attract and retain, and will provide classroom, research, office, study, and common spaces for our increasingly robust campus community.

A Redesign for the Future

The renovation of Monroe Hall will be a watershed moment for Loyola’s campus. Since 2009, the university has undertaken more than $162 million in infrastructure improvements and renovations for its two campuses. This includes the renovation of Thomas Hall (completed in 2012), the new Tom Benson Jesuit Center (in early stages of preparation), the new Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic and Center for Social Justice (completed in 2011), and the renovation of the Cabra Hall residential complex (in progress 2012-2013).

Monroe Hall is by far the largest single project, and will have the largest impact on generations of Loyola students. Its classrooms will be transformed with state-of-the-art technology and designed to facilitate collaborative learning. Its laboratories will be outfitted with brand new equipment for teaching and research. Its common spaces will accommodate increased interaction between students and professors from the many different disciplines of study in Monroe Hall. This includes students and faculty in theatre and visual arts, who will move from aging spaces in Marquette Hall and Loyola’s Broadway campus into Monroe Hall, where they will have access to new studios, building shops, and computer technology.

A Jesuit education is, by definition, a holistic education, steeped in interdisciplinary learning that emphasizes critical thinking across academic fields. The renovation of Monroe Hall will cater directly to this educational approach by situating in close quarters students and faculty in biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, visual art and design, theatre arts, psychology, and other disciplines, and its physical layout will encourage them to engage with each other. Each floor of Monroe Hall will feature spacious and comfortable common areas—which are largely absent in the building in its current configuration—with versatile seating and desk arrangements, as well as white boards for working out problems in groups. Components of the building’s design speak directly to the revised Common Curriculum Loyola is launching now, which continues to ensure that all Loyola students receive a foundation in the liberal arts and sciences that is fundamental to Jesuit education. Monroe Hall will feature science labs that specifically
host Common Curriculum science courses in which virtually all Loyola undergraduate students will study.

The versatile learning spaces that will result from the renovation of Monroe Hall will cater to the intimate style of instruction that is part of Loyola’s hallmark. Its classrooms will be built to accommodate optimal numbers of students per class, with digital presentation equipment incorporated into the rooms. Many of the classrooms will do away with traditional desks, and will instead feature flexible tables and chairs that encourage critical engagement and discussion among students, and that allow professors to adapt the classroom space to individual styles and to the needs of the class on any given day. The renovation will include the addition of a sixth floor to Monroe Hall, which will feature two Common Curriculum instructional labs, as well as a 90-seat multidisciplinary lecture room with a high-definition projector ideal for both visual arts and science presentations. There will also be a 52-seat lecture room on Monroe Hall’s first floor, complete with a “dockable” sink for the presentation of science experiments that can be set up in a separate laboratory and then rolled in on a movable table. Designated spaces such as a math learning center, a physics reading room, research labs for all the natural sciences, and a psychology suite with cognition and physiology rooms will be interspersed throughout the building, located in their respective departments.

The Department of Art and Design and students in theatre arts will find an extraordinary new home in the renovated Monroe Hall. The first floor will house a series of new studios where art sculpture students “get their hands dirty” in pursuing the mastery of their disciplines in welding, woodwork, and sculpture. The fourth floor will feature a suite of drawing and painting studios with plentiful natural light, while the fifth floor will house studios for graphic design, computer-based imagery, printmaking, and a photography darkroom. The theatre department will occupy space on the sixth floor with working labs for lighting, acting, costume, and set design—activities which currently take place in rooms not outfitted for these particular purposes. All the while, these arts endeavors will be sharing floors and wings in Monroe Hall where chemistry students conduct soil testing, physics students prepare instruments to launch in weather balloons, and other students and faculty in the liberal arts and sciences conduct work, making the building a truly interdisciplinary environment.

The exterior of Monroe Hall will undergo substantial transformation, as well. The reimagining of our physical campus includes an effort to streamline Loyola’s visual identity in a manner that emphasizes its strengths. The redesign of Monroe Hall’s façade, with handsome light brick, will visually integrate the building with the stately and modern brick edifices around it on Loyola’s campus and will better integrate the building with Loyola’s historic neighborhood. The extra floor added to the building will prove an efficient and cost-effective strategy to providing crucial additional space for students, faculty, and staff without encroaching on the campus’ limited green spaces. The increase in social density that results from building upward—along with the new and spacious, strategic common areas in the renovated building—will make student life in Monroe Hall increasingly vibrant. An inviting new first-floor lobby will act as a gateway between the renovated Monroe Hall and the rest of our reinvigorated campus.

Loyola’s president and university leadership are vigilant about two important concerns—fiscal responsibility and environmental sustainability—both of which Monroe Hall’s renovation will
address. The mid-century building will be brought into the 21st century with interior construction that aligns its mechanical, electrical power, and lighting systems with rigorous standards of energy efficiency. This will ensure that the amount of natural resources and university dollars required for Monroe Hall’s day-to-day operation will be dramatically cut.

**Naming Opportunities**

Loyola will be proud to honor leading donors to the Monroe Hall renovation by memorializing gifts with naming opportunities. The criteria for a gift-related naming will consider the value, visibility, improvements, and marketability of the location. Opportunities to name areas within the new Monroe such as classrooms, lecture halls, laboratories, and workshops will be approved by the president upon the recommendation of Named Gifts Program Committee.

Construction for the renovation of Monroe Hall will be phased throughout a several-year period, with initial progress already underway. A look at the work that has already been completed on the project is merely an exciting inkling of what will eventually be a transformation of one Loyola’s most important buildings. By the project’s completion, Monroe Hall will once again stand as a symbol of prestige and excellence among the campus built environment, and within its walls the cultural, intellectual, and academic life of Loyola will flourish with renewed vigor.