January 27, 2022

Dear Canisius Community,

Since the last update of December 9, the Presidential Search Committee met on January 10 to consider the applications received by the January 4 deadline for applicants to receive the “full consideration” of the Committee. Canisius’ presidential search attracted a substantial number of qualified applicants, representing candidates from across the country and abroad, from industry, from public and private institutions, and from individuals with administrative rankings from associate dean to president.

Our task at the January 4 meeting was to select from these applicants a number of especially qualified individuals to advance to the semi-final interviews, which the Committee conducted virtually January 21-22. Although the Committee strongly preferred to conduct the semi-finalist interviews face-to-face, the rapidly accelerating pace of the Omicron variant of Covid-19, unfortunately, precluded us from proceeding in that manner.

The Committee, together with its consultants from AGB Search, have engaged the semi-finalists in interviews to discuss their experience in meeting the qualities articulated in the “Position Profile.” As a reminder, you can find the Position Profile at https://www.canisius.edu/sites/default/files/%2A/pres_presidential_profile.pdf. The “Strategic Priorities” on page 15 and the “Qualities and Expectations for Leadership” found on pages 19-21 provided the framework for the types of questions posed to our candidates.

As a result of these interviews, three outstanding finalists will be invited to campus for final interviews. It is expected that finalist interviews will commence the first full week of February. We continue to hope that we will be able to conduct interviews with our final candidates in person and on the Canisius campus. The exact dates, times, and schedules for these interviews, including opportunities to participate in an open forum with candidates, will be provided to the Canisius community once they are finalized.

As always, thank you for your continued interest in this very important search. Your support is greatly appreciated.

My best wishes for a wonderful 2022.

Sincerely,

Francis M. Lazarus
Trustee & Chair, Search Committee
(fml001@aol.com)