AJCU Trustee Forum  
Friday, October 13- Sunday, October 15, 2023

Event Site: Schreiber Center, Loyola University Chicago (Water Tower Campus)  
Lodging: Sofitel Chicago Magnificent Mile

Please note: AJCU strongly recommends that all participants be vaccinated and boosted before attending the AJCU Trustee Forum. While masks will be optional, participants should feel comfortable masking if they wish to do so.

Friday, October 13

4:00 p.m.  
Who Are We as Trustees and What Do We Hold in Trust? Jesuit Higher Education Today  
Schreiber Center 10th Floor

Rev. Michael Garanzini, S.J. – President, Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

4:30 p.m.  
Table Discussions: How is being a trustee at your Jesuit, Catholic university like being a trustee on other boards on which you’ve served? How is it different?

5:00 p.m.  
Plenary session to continue the above conversation

5:30 p.m.  
Reception  
Schreiber Center 9th Floor

6:15 p.m.  
Dinner

7:00 p.m.  
Welcome and Overview of Weekend  
Schreiber Center 9th Floor

Rev. Michael J. Graham, S.J. – Senior Advisor for Trustee Formation Programs, AJCU

7:15 p.m.  
Dialogue Desserts: Reflection on Trusteeship and Mission

8:30 p.m.  
Informal Conversation and Evening Reception  
Schreiber Center 9th Floor

Saturday, October 14

8:00 a.m.  
Breakfast  
Schreiber Center 9th Floor

8:45 a.m.  
Announcements and Morning Prayer  
Schreiber Center 10th Floor
9:00 a.m. **The Jesuit and Catholic Contexts of our Schools**

Dr. Mark Reed – President, Loyola University Chicago  
Rev. Robert Niehoff, S.J. – Provincial Assistant for Higher Education, Jesuits West Province  
Rev. Daniel McDonald, S.J. – Provincial Assistant for Higher Education, Midwest Jesuits Province

In recent years, the relationship of Jesuit colleges and universities to the Jesuit Provinces in which they are located has become more formalized through Provincial Assistants for Higher Education (PAHEs). In addition, and at the urging of the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, a process has been instituted—the Mission Priority Examen (MPE)—to encourage a steady strengthening of the Jesuit and Catholic identities of AJCU schools so as to allow Fr. General in affirming their identity as Jesuit and Catholic.

Two current PAHEs will provide an overview of these relationships and processes. Dr. Reed—currently president of his second AJCU school, located in a Province different from his first one—is uniquely qualified to provide a presidential perspective on these same issues. Topics will include: What defines an AJCU school as Jesuit and Catholic? What are best practices for embedding elements of our fundamental identity across the horizon of university life and activity? What have we learned through the MPE process since it began?

9:45 a.m. **Discussion: Implications for Governance**

10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:30 a.m. **The Academic Heart of Jesuit Higher Education**

Dr. Michael P. Murphy – Director, The Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, Loyola University Chicago  
Dr. Joseph Vukov – Associate Director, The Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, Loyola University Chicago  
Rev. Patrick L. Gilger, S.J. – Assistant Professor of Sociology, Loyola University Chicago

One of the distinguishing elements of all Jesuit colleges and universities is our approach to the academic project, which is reflected in core curricula and other academic programs. This approach is ultimately grounded in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition (CIT) and the tradition of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Our panelists will provide a useful overview of these twin traditions and help participants understand how trustees can best support this approach to higher education to ensure that our students are, in the words of a past Jesuit Superior General, “converted to humanity.”

11:30 a.m. **Discussion: Implications for Governance**

12:00 p.m. **Lunch**  
*Schreiber Center* 9th Floor
Always Our Focus: Board Governance for the Students at the Center of Our Mission

Schreiber Center 10th Floor

Dr. Michele C. Murray – Senior Vice President for Student Development and Mission, College of the Holy Cross
Dr. Kent Porterfield – Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Gonzaga University

Jesuit colleges and universities are famously student-centered: thus, trustees are kept regularly informed on a variety of issues regarding student life and success, e.g., mental health, factors impacting persistence and completion rates, diversity, equity and inclusion, among other issues. Our panelists will help participants understand how leading students affairs work at a Jesuit institution is different from the same work at a secular school. They will also discuss characteristics of our students today and how they differ from students of previous generations.

Discussion: Implications for Governance

Break

The Relationship between Mission and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Ivy Banks, M.Ed., J.D. – Vice President for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer, Xavier University
Dr. Debra Mooney – Vice President and Chief Mission Officer, Xavier University

For roughly fifty years, the Society of Jesus worldwide has understood its distinctly religious identity and mission to be inseparably coupled with issues of justice. In recent years, Jesuits have added a strong emphasis on reconciliation to this overarching mission. In the contemporary United States, this means that a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion must proceed from the grounding Jesuit and Catholic identity of our schools. Our panelists will help participants reflect on how issues of mission and diversity, while distinct, are nonetheless overlapping and indeed complementary on our campuses—necessary dimensions of the life of a Jesuit college or university today. In addition, they will provide perspectives on how to assist campus communities in navigating complex questions that arise at the intersection of mission and diversity.

Discussion: Implications for Governance

Break

Critical Issues I

Conversations at the participants’ tables will surface important issues faced across our campuses and set up a plenary conversation on Sunday regarding how we might bring a distinctly Jesuit lens to these issues through the practice of communal discernment.

Mass (Celebrant: TBD)
Schreiber Center 8th Floor

Reception
Schreiber Center 9th Floor
6:30 p.m.    Dinner
7:30 p.m.    Continuing Conversation and Evening Reception

**Sunday, October 15**

8:00 a.m.    Breakfast
    Schreiber Center 9th Floor

8:45 a.m.    Announcements and Morning Prayer
    Schreiber Center 10th Floor

9:00 a.m.    Critical Issues II: An Ignatian Approach to Decision-Making

We will familiarize participants with basic elements of Ignatian communal discernment and apply this method to some of the topics identified the previous afternoon.

10:15 a.m.    Break

10:30 a.m.    Open Discussion: Learnings, Take-Aways, Next Steps

12:00 p.m.    Adjourn