Message from the Chair

Xavier University Board of Trustees
October 24, 2104

Dear Xavier Community:

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with more information regarding the search for Xavier University of Louisiana’s second lay president.

Since Dr. Francis made his announcement in early September that he will retire as President on June 30, 2015 the Executive Committee of the Xavier University Board of Trustees immediately began working to establish a Presidential Search Committee. We believe we have successfully completed this important responsibility through the formation of a diverse group of twelve persons, each of whom has a deep understanding of Xavier that will guide our efforts in considering the very best candidates for the presidential role.

The Presidential Search Committee members are:

- Gladstone Jones III, J.D. – Trustee; Chair, Presidential Search Committee
- The Honorable Ivan L. R. Lemelle, ’71 – Vice Chair, Presidential Search Committee
- Ann Barbre, Ph.D. ’70 – Associate Dean, Xavier University College of Pharmacy
- Mark D. Goodman – Trustee
- Vivian Guillory, J.D. ’75 – President, Xavier University Alumni Association
- Sr. Monica Loughlin, SBS ’69 – Special Assistant to the President for Catholic Identity and Mission Integration
- Marie V. McDemmond, Ed.D ’68 – Trustee
- Sonia Perez – Trustee
- Anthony Poché – Student, Xavier University College of Pharmacy
- Michael M. Rue, J.D. – Trustee, Chair, Board of Trustees
- Michael White, PH.D. ’76 – Xavier University Keller Endowed Chair and Professor of Languages
- Mary Keller Zervigon, J.D. - Trustee
The search process will commence in earnest next month when the Committee first meets with the national search firm selected to guide the process, Isaacson, Miller, Inc. Within the next 30 to 45 days the search firm plans to schedule listening sessions to solicit input from the larger Xavier community. We want to be inclusive in obtaining input from the larger Xavier community, so these listening sessions will present you with an opportunity to voice your thoughts on the qualifications and traits you consider important in Xavier’s next president which will assist the Search Committee in developing a presidential profile that describes our ideal candidate. I urge you to attend and participate in one of the listening sessions tentatively scheduled for November 13-14, 2014. You will learn more specific information about the listening sessions very soon.

We are also setting up a presidential search website where you will be encouraged to offer feedback and comments.

The Search Committee has been requested to present its recommendations to the Board of Trustees by no later than the Board of Trustee’s Spring, 2015 meeting. The search will remain confidential until the new president is appointed by the Board of Trustees and thereafter announced.

Thank you for your interest, assistance and participation in the search for Xavier University’s next president. I am confident that we will identify a highly qualified leader who will carry on and further the accomplishments that Dr. Francis has so masterfully achieved.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Rue
Chair, Board of Trustees