1. **Name of committee chairperson:**
   Paula Gill Lopez

2. **Committee membership & number of meetings with the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board attended by each committee member**

   Betsy Bowen (3)
   Paula Gill Lopez (3)
   Wendy Kohli (3)
   Phil Lane (3)
   Marti LoMonaco (3)

3. **Total of 14 meetings**

   **Meetings with the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board (n=4)**
   October 4, 2012
   December 1, 2012
   March 21, 2013
   June 6, 2013 (scheduled)

   **Planning meetings (n=4)**
   10/2/13, 11/13/12, 3/18/13, 4/29/13

   **Reports to the Academic Council (n=5)**
   The Chair of the Committee on Conference is charged with instructions from the Academic Council before each meeting with the Board and reports to the Academic Council after each meeting.
   10/1/12, 11/5/12, 3/4/13, 4/8/13, 4/29/13

   **Emergency meeting with the Faculty Salary Committee, Academic Council Executive Committee: 3/20/13 (Petition for immediate hearing)**

4. **Overall goal for year:**
   To develop respect and trust with the trustees through the shared goal of promoting the academic division

**October 4, 2012**
SVPAA Fitzgerald presented a progress report on the Portfolio Review of Academic Programs, the fall 2012 US News rankings, a profile of the class of 2016, and review of the 2012 summer session, and a progress report on the two Academic Dean searches and Associate VP succession.
During the faculty portion of the meeting, Committee on Conference members suggested to the trustees that we collaborate to create an agenda for the year. The suggestion was met with enthusiasm. The ensuing discussion explored potential future agenda items.

**December 1, 2012**
In advance of the meeting, the Committee on Conference sent the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, John Baldovin, a list of proposed discussion items gleaned from the previous meeting. The list is as follows:

1. How do we maintain a high quality, affordable, private liberal arts education?
2. What are our goals for the next 2-3 years?
3. What are our academic priorities? How do we best allocate our resources to achieve those priorities?
4. How do we separate ourselves from our competition more successfully?
5. Our graduate and undergraduate programs need to be marketed separately and adequately. How can we accomplish this most successfully?
6. How does this discussion fit with the newly proposed refreshed strategic plan?

The list was well received. The Academic Affairs Chair placed the first two questions on the meeting agenda. Discussion of these two items included issues of distance learning, the importance of advancement, the changing demographic, the Dashboard Indicators, the need for the administration to tap faculty expertise, the Jesuit brand, and the cost of faculty vs. the cost of other non-income generating structures.

In addition, Mark LeClair presented the proposal for the MA in Public Administration to the trustees.

**March 21, 2013**
Two questions were selected from the list to discuss: What are our academic priorities? How do we best allocate our resources to achieve those priorities? In response to points raised in the discussion, a key question was asked by Bishop George Murray, “Has there been an equivalent increase in administration and faculty?” To which SVPAA Fitzgerald replied, “No.” Chair Baldovin summarized two takeaways that he would present to the full board in the afternoon. First, that there is no compelling strategic plan driving the allocation of resources. Second, that
there is a serious morale issue that is not only related to compensation. The poor morale stems from faculty not feeling supported or valued, evidenced by the disproportionate allocation of resources for the non-academic vs. academic divisions.

5. **List of the decisions taken by the committee**

   None.

6. **Anticipated effects of these decisions**

   None to date.

7. **Unfinished business**

   We will meet again with the Academic Affairs committee of the Board on June 6. The tentative agenda for that meeting includes the following:
   
   • Follow up on the last meeting: How were the “takeaways” received by the full board?
   
   • Present data from recent faculty presentations that demonstrate the disproportionate nature of resource allocation between non-academic and academic divisions.
   
   • Discuss next steps.

   We recommend that the Committee on Conference continue to ensure that it has opportunities for genuine discussion with the Academic Affairs committee of the Board. This committee is the faculty’s opportunity to create good will with the trustees, gain their trust, and work together to effect positive, productive change for the benefit of the academic division. Fostering a collaborative working relationship is essential.

8. **Future agenda items**

   These are determined by the Academic Council and the General Faculty.