1. In my report dated April 30, 2004, I listed 17 areas I had addressed since my arrival at Loyola. In summary, these areas continue to be addressed and those that identifies specific action have been acted upon.

2. Alumni Relations. The pattern set last year has been continued. Visits to law firms both in New Orleans and interstate are ongoing and personal visits to alumni around the country have been carried out. These visits have resulted in a steady stream of donated funds as well as a steady stream of law firms that have agreed to interview our students with the view to hire. I have also set up a mentoring system whereby alumni in various cities throughout the country have agreed to assist Loyola students even if they are not hiring at the particular moment.

3. Fund Raising:

4. Curricula changes: As promised last year, the first year writing program has been revamped. It is possibly too early to claim total success, but all indications give signs that students are receiving a more professional product than previously. The first year Moot Court competition culminated with an argument before the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana and four other justices. They were unanimous in their assessment of a marked improvement from previous years. Additionally the students have expressed great satisfaction with the new program.

5. Faculty Hiring: The decision by professor Medina to accept an offer of a visit at Villanova University School of Law necessitated the hiring of a visitor to replace her. I made a proposal to the Provost that we invite Professor Stephen Higginson to visit on a ‘look-see’ basis. He agreed, and last December the faculty unanimously decided to ask me to make him an offer of a tenure-track position. Professor Higginson agreed. Professor Higginson’s credentials are such that he is the best credentialed hire in the history of the law school.

6. Bar Passage: The July bar examinations resulted in a 14% point increase in successful completion. It is often difficult to relate cause and effect, but it is hoped that this outstanding improvement was directly related to the introduction of the promised bar review seminars that were conducted by members of the faculty both during the spring semester and throughout the commercial bar review course.

7. Our International program has continued to expand. Current figures estimate over 200 students will be attending one of our summer sessions in either Europe or Central America. Funds from the foreign programs have also assisted in bringing a number of speakers to the law school. These have included, Professor……, Dean Costa Rica School of Law, professor …….., Athens school of law, Serbian ambassador, [brendon Brown list]. This past year marked the 200th anniversary of the signing of the introduction of the Napoleonic Code, and a seminar to celebrate that occasion was held at the Supreme Court of Louisiana. The law school was delighted to welcome, amongst others …….. from France. Our international reputation is further demonstrated by the fact that professor Lovett was invited to present a series of lectures at the university of Glasgow, professor Vetter a series of lectures at the University of Lithuania, Professor Woods received a Fulbright to study in Beijing and professor Klebba received a Fulbright to study and lecture in Belgrade. [have there been any other speakers]. The law school is already discussing the possibility of reciprocal visits during the 2005-2006 academic year.
8. Following the acceptance by the Board of Trustees of the proposal to build and addition to the law school, plans were drawn up and a 16,000 square foot addition will be completed in time for the 2006 fall semester. This addition will satisfy ABA requirements for the foreseeable future.

9. Last year I reported that 50% of the faculty had produced articles or books for publication. Since that time I can report that the participation rate has risen to 82% and the quantity of work has increased 40%.

10. Attrition rate: the net attrition rate dropped by nearly 33% and it is hoped that there will be a further decline this year. The drop has been assisted by the increase in available merit scholarships, and a concerted effort to provide academic assistance to any student whose grades place him/her on academic probation. Academic assistance is provided through a special program whereby the dean and the associate dean for academic affairs interviews every student whose fall grades place him/her in jeopardy as well as a system of special classes and individual assistance provided by a tenured member of faculty.

11. I saw the challenges for 2004-2005 as the following:

   Improve Bar Passage: Bar passage increased 14 percentage points.
   Entrance scores for 2004-2005 improved in both GPA and LSAT.
   Attrition rate due to academic failure dropped from 23 to 15.
   Academic support has been strengthened by ensuring that both the dean and the academic dean interview every 1L student whose fall grades indicate that the student is ‘at risk’. Also I have appointed a tenured member of faculty to provide group sessions and individual assistance to those students who have been notified that they are at risk and have requested help.
   Increase upper class merit scholarships: A major fund raising initiative has been and continues to be increasing the endowment for merit based scholarships. This figure is now .....[see Andy]
   Increase faculty publication rate: Since I took over the position of dean, faculty participation in scholarly writing has increased by 33% and the quantum produced has increased by 40% over a comparable period.
   Alumni involvement: The number of alumni who have made donations over the past twelve months has increased by .........
   Broden hiring base: During the past twelve months I have visited numerous law firms both in New Orleans and around the country. There is now not one firm in New Orleans that is not prepared to hire qualified Loyola graduates. Recognition of Loyola among firms outside our normal ‘catchment’ area has been more difficult. In an attempt to create opportunities for our graduates who wish to practice law in other states, I have offered to pay the costs of travel to New Orleans for firms willing to ‘have a look’ at our graduates. To date this has been successful, and the mere offer has produced positive results.
   Evening class viability: In an attempt to increase the enrolment of our evening class I financed an advertising campaign in the local media. The results of this have not as yet been determined.
   Improve the national reputation of the law school: The only measure available to determine the success or failure of this aim is the US News and World Report ratings. In this regard the our standing within the practicing profession has
improved two decimal points whereas our standing with other law schools has remained static.

In an attempt to improve this, I will be sending a personal letter to all AALS deans setting out our recent hires as well as listing faculty publications.