

John McKiernan, J.D.
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HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Chief of Staff to the President, Wilmington College *Aug. 2022 – Present*

Chief Financial Officer (Interim), Wilmington College *Sep. 2025 – Present*

- Lead the work of the President’s Cabinet to align divisional goals with the College’s strategic plan and the President’s vision. Provide direction regarding implementation of strategic goals and monitor progress on key initiatives. Structure agendas and lead Cabinet meetings for productivity and efficiency
- As Interim Chief Financial Officer, lead all Business Office functions, including budget development, external audit, cash-flow management, risk assessment, contract review, income properties, alternate revenue generation, RFPs, and accounts payable
- Primary steward of the College’s Board of Trustees, liaison with external legal counsel, supervise the Office of Institutional Research, lead College’s Title IV recertification, chair College-wide committees, manage President’s Office staff and budget
- Following staff turnover, temporarily oversee Human Resources and ensure operational continuity in recruitment, hiring, payroll, and benefits, temporarily direct Title IX and other federal compliance and reporting functions
- Execute a successful presidential search in lieu of a professional search firm. Develop and implement a national advertising strategy, receive and screen applications, advise Chair and Search Committee on preferred applicants’ viability, and implement an inclusive, campus-wide finalist engagement process

Assistant Vice President, President’s Office, Loyola University Maryland *Dec. 2016 – July 2021*

Assistant to the President, President’s Office, Loyola University Maryland *Aug. 2014 – Nov. 2016*

- Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees. Advance University’s efforts on trustee recruitment, engagement, and individual stewardship. Plan and implement all Board meetings, retreats, and international events. Responsible for all Board assessments and communications. Staff Executive, Trusteeship, and Executive Compensation Committees of the Board
- Co-chair of the University’s Institutional Effectiveness Committee and Accreditation Liaison Officer to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Assume primary responsibility for University’s self-study report, federal compliance, and Annual Institutional Update
- Project Manager and Steering Committee member for the University’s strategic plan. Support Committee Co-chairs on discernment of strategic priorities, development of the Committee’s work product, and prioritization of identified goals and action items
- Serve as member of the President’s Cabinet. Advise and assist the President on all aspects of University operations. Draft presidential talking points, press releases, and VIP correspondence. Collaborate with university communications and external media on institutional press and marketing

Director of Academic Counseling & Programming, Yale Law School *June 2010 – Aug. 2014*

Hall Director, Xavier Global House, Seattle University *Aug. 2007 – June 2010*

Assistant Rector, O’Neill Hall, University of Notre Dame *Aug. 2003 – May 2005*

EDUCATION

University of Notre Dame

- *Bachelor of Arts*, Philosophy May 2002
- *Juris Doctor* May 2005

University of Oxford, Harris Manchester College

- *Post Graduate Diploma*, Theology July 2006

University of Scranton

- *Master of Business Administration* May 2012

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION, BOARD, & COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Site Evaluation Team Member 2018 – Present

- Le Moyne College 2025
- Mercyhurst University 2022
- New Brunswick Theological Seminary 2021
- Albany Law School of Union University 2019
- Adelphi University 2018 – 2019

Notre Dame Club of Maryland, President (x2), Additional Board Positions 2014 – 2021

Caring Response Madagascar Foundation, Treasurer 2009 – Present

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Theology 201, Introduction to Theology, Loyola University Maryland Fall Semester, 2018

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Effective Approaches to Evidence Inventory Documentation Webinar (Invited Panelist), Middle States Commission on Higher Education, April 30th, 2021

All Work and No Play: Incorporating Campus and Social Activities to Promote Trustee Engagement, Develop Camaraderie, and Enliven Board Meetings, The Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, Board Professionals Workshop of the 2019 National Conference on Trusteeship. April 13th, 2019, Orlando, FL

An Aristotelian Model of Corporate Social Responsibility: How “Man as Political Animal” Improves Upon the Legal Fiction Model of Corporate Personhood, The North American Society for Social Philosophy’s 28th Annual International Social Philosophy Conference, July 23rd, 2011, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

Formative Challenges in Graduate and Professional Programs, The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, National Conference. March 14th, 2011, Philadelphia, PA

Tyranny of the Majority and Judicial Power: Using Tocqueville to Evaluate the Activism of Justice William Brennan, 8 U.S. STUDIES ONLINE 3 (Spring, 2006)

Socrates and The Smith Act: The Dennis Prosecution and the Trial of Socrates in 399 BC, 15.1 TEMP. POL. & CIV. RTS. L. REV. 65 (Fall, 2005)

LANGUAGES

Spanish – Proficient reading, writing, and conversational skills