Dear University Community,

Over the course of this past semester, the University has begun its Middle States Self-Study process led by our co-chairs, Rebecca Beal and Julie Schumacher Cohen. Together, they have attended the Middle States training institute and laid the groundwork for the Self-Study Design due in February 2017. Most importantly, they have assembled a Steering Committee to engage in the work of reflection and analysis related to each of the seven standards. I am particularly pleased that the Steering Committee will be considering ways to integrate the Ignatian discernment process into its work. I know this will ensure a study that is productive, fruitful and grounded in our mission.

It is with deep appreciation that I am pleased to announce this group of individuals representing a broad swath of the campus, including faculty, staff, and administration. Each brings different skills and experience to this Self-Study, but they are united in their commitment and care for our community:

Middle States Self-Study Steering Committee, by Standard:

8. Compliance Review: Kathryn Yerkes, Assistant Vice Provost for Planning & Institutional Effectiveness

Ex-Officio Members: Mary Jane DiMattio, Associate Professor, Nursing, Director of the Office of Educational Assessment; and Valerie Taylor; Senior Research Analyst, Office of Institutional Research

Clerical Support: Linda Scherer, Administrative Assistant, Office of Institutional Effectiveness

In addition, I want to acknowledge campus colleagues who are serving on ad-hoc committees that will help to ensure the success of our process in two key areas:

Data & Technology Committee: Susan Bowen, Chief Information Officer;
Jean Lenville, Assistant Dean & Acting Associate Dean, Weinberg Memorial Library;
Valerie Taylor, Senior Research Analyst, Office of Institutional Research;
Richard Walsh, Assistant Provost for Operations, Provost Administration

Communication Committee: Laura C. Richards, University Editor, Public Relations; John J. Sailors, Associate Professor, Management, Marketing & Entrepreneurship; Stacy M. Smulowitz, Assistant Professor, Communication; Samantha Yagozinski, English major/Entrepreneurship minor, Student Intern

Lastly, let me also offer my thanks to campus administrators as they consult regularly with the Self-Study co-chairs:

Coordinating Committee: Joseph Dreisbach, Interim Provost; Edward Steinmetz, Senior Vice Provost for Finance and Administration; Patricia Harrington, Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs; and Kathryn Yerkes, Assistant Vice Provost for Planning & Institutional Effectiveness and Middle States Accreditation Liaison Officer.

I am grateful to all of these individuals for their willingness to dedicate the time, effort, and leadership involved in carrying out their responsibilities through the submission of our self-study report in the spring of 2018. However, they cannot do their work alone. In the coming weeks, the Steering Committee will be gathering Working Group members and identifying Resource Persons for each of the seven standards. I encourage broad participation and remain grateful to those who will be undertaking these additional key roles.

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