

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:***

1. *Mission & Goals:* **Lawrence Kennedy**, Professor, History; and **Lauren Rivera**, Associate Vice Provost for Student Formation & Campus Life and Dean of Students
2. *Ethics and Integrity:* **Maria Oreshkina**, Associate Professor, Education, Director of Graduate Programs in Education; and **Patrick Donohue**, Assistant Vice President for Budget & Financial Planning
3. *Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience:* **David Rusak**, Professor, Chemistry; and **Jean Lenville**; Assistant Dean & Acting Associate Dean, Weinberg Memorial Library
4. *Support of the Student Experience:* **Robyn Lawrence**, Associate Professor, Accounting, Director of the MBA Program; and **Helen Wolf**, Executive Director for Campus Ministries
5. *Educational Effectiveness Assessment:* **Steven Sydlowski**, Assistant Professor of Health Administration & Human Resources, Director of the Graduate Health Administration Program; and **Eugeniu Grigorescu**, Director, Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence
6. *Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement:* **Paul Cutruffello**, Associate Professor, Exercise Science & Sport, Chair of the Department of Exercise Science and Sports; and **Jennifer LaPorta**, Executive Director, Office of Equity and Diversity
7. *Governance, Leadership, and Administration:* **Jean Harris**, Professor, Political Science; and **Murli Rajan**, Associate Dean, Kania School of Management

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.

The Middle States Self-Study process is truly a campus-wide initiative that will require something from each of us over the next two and a half years. Even if you are not involved formally, I encourage your collaboration whether that be by providing information from your program or department, taking part in interviews and campus input sessions, or reviewing draft reports. It affords us the opportunity to look carefully at

ourselves with the overall goal to enhance the University's effectiveness and position Scranton best to meet its challenges, now and into the future.

With gratitude,

Kevin P. Quinn, S.J.