

## **Middle States Update: Design and Working Groups Complete**

Dear University Community,

In March, we had a successful campus visit from Dr. Ellie Fogarty, our Middle States liaison officer. Thanks to everyone on campus who engaged with the visit in some way, whether at the Open Forum, group meetings, or by sharing your thoughts on how *you* feel connected to the University community in engagement activities set up by our communication committee.

**Design Complete:** We received positive feedback on the Self-Study Design and have submitted a final version with minor adjustments to Middle States. You can read this version, now posted on the News tab of the My.Scranton portal.

As you'll see, the Design includes a section about the ways in which we are committed to using the Self-Study process for ongoing improvement and to inform our strategic planning processes. We know that we will gather, analyze, and make recommendations about more information and issues than can fit into the final Self-Study report itself – this material will be shared with existing campus committees and leaders to directly inform decision making and improvement going forward.

**Working Groups:** We want to give a special thanks to the 46 faculty and staff members who have now joined the Self-Study as members of eight Working Groups. These broadly representative groups include:

- \* 20 faculty coming from all colleges and the library
- \* 4 students
- \* 22 staff and administrators from every Division of the University.

We also want to thank the members of the ad hoc data/technology and communication committees for their support and the Jesuit Center for its assistance with integrating Ignatian discernment into our process. In all, almost 70 members of the campus community are directly engaged in the Self-Study, and many more will serve as resource people along the way.

**Next Steps:** Over the remaining spring and into the summer, Steering Committee members will be gathering information for the research work that will begin in earnest by the Working Groups this fall. We ask for your continued attention, engagement, collaboration and support for this process and are grateful for the good work done thus far.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Beal and Julie Schumacher Cohen  
Middle States Self-Study Steering Committee Co-Chairs