

February 28, 2017

Dear Members of the University Community,

As you know, the Middle States Self-Study is very much under way. Approaching the process in an open and transparent way, our Steering Committee co-chairs, Dr. Rebecca Beal and Julie Schumacher Cohen have met with groups across campus and convened a broadly representative Steering Committee of faculty, staff. The Steering Committee is now finalizing the selection process for Working Group members. A hearty thank you to the Steering Committee and to those who will participate in the working groups studying each of the seven Middle States standards.

Since December, the Steering Committee met regularly to draft the Self-Study Design for our process, including organizational structure, key timelines, and research questions that connect directly to the University's mission and goals. The intended outcomes of the self-study include, of course, achieving reaffirmation of our accreditation, as well as the goals of enriching the University through reflection, analysis and institutional self-renewal. I am particularly pleased the way the process incorporates Ignatian discernment as a key element.

The draft is available on the my.scranton portal, "News" tab, "University Publications" channel. Comments to the draft are welcome by emailing [selfstudy@scranton.edu](mailto:selfstudy@scranton.edu). **The deadline for comments is March 9.** I encourage all members of the campus community to offer their input and feedback now and throughout the process.

In addition, you will have a chance to learn more and ask questions about the Self-Study process when our Middle States liaison, Dr. Ellie Fogarty, visits campus on March 31. Watch for updates about an open forum for faculty, staff and students.

Thank you once again to all who are contributing to the Self-Study. I encourage and welcome broad campus participation in this important opportunity to reflect and improve on all that we do together to provide a transformational educational experience for our students.

Sincerely,

Kevin P. Quinn, S.J.  
President