LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

(excerpt from Memo to the Community)

TO: Long Island University Community

FROM: David J. Steinberg

DATE: February 22, 2012

Over the next nine months the University will focus increasingly on the self-study process that is at the heart of the upcoming Middle States decennial review. Reaccreditation is a vital pre-condition for receiving government funds, and this year the University will have received over \$200 million of financial aid on behalf of our students or for grants and research. The self-study, as I have noted several times before, also should serve as an opportunity for institutional assessment and renewal. Looking inward, this self-analysis forces all of us to ask ourselves such questions as: "How well are we doing, and are there things we could do better?" "Are there activities we value but know we cannot afford to continue to support?" "Does our mission statement still capture fully our priorities?" "Are we fulfilling that mission in ways both large and small?" In other words, what is our report card on ourselves?

No constituency, no stakeholder, no part of the University can be granted a pass during this process, and the Board of Trustees, cognizant of this reality, recently completed its own self-assessment under the auspices of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB). Building on the results of that self-evaluation, a highly skilled interlocutor, himself a former college president and trustee at another university, served as a facilitator at an intensive retreat where the trustees focused on two key priorities for every college and university governing board: the Board's relationships to students, faculty, and alumni; and its obligation to help meet the institution's needs through leadership in philanthropy. The trustees discussed candidly their performance, strengths and weaknesses, and sought to define action items designed to improve engagement and giving. Challenges were identified, priorities were reaffirmed, and ideas were embraced, especially in relation to shared faculty/administrative/trustee governance.