

# OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

## MEMORANDUM

TO: The LIU Community

FROM: David J. Steinberg

SUBJECT: Middle States Self-Study Activities During 2012-2013

As you know from earlier communications, this is the academic year during which LIU will conclude its self-study activities leading up to the Middle States Evaluation Team visit next spring. For nearly two years, six working groups, some campus-based and others University-wide, have been deeply immersed in an analytical assessment of our collective efforts to fulfill our mission, to meet the objectives of the Strategic Agenda, and to comply with the Characteristics of Excellence articulated by the Middle States Commission. Literally hundreds of you have dedicated countless hours to the research, writing, editing and revising of draft reports that are now coming together to form an integrated Self-Study Report. For this commitment, the entire University is profoundly grateful.

By month's end the co-chairs of the Drafting & Oversight Committee, which has been responsible for the overall self-review effort, will distribute a draft copy of the Self-Study Report to the University community for your review. Subsequently there will be a period of two months during which you will be invited and encouraged to share your thoughts, comments and feedback either at "town hall" type meetings at the campuses or electronically.

In mid-October, Dr. Jack P. Varsalona, President of Wilmington University, and chair of the Middle States Evaluation Team assigned to LIU, will spend two days meeting with faculty, students, staff, administrators and members of the working groups and campus-based assessment teams. This will be Dr. Varsalona's first in-person introduction to LIU, and we look forward to hearing his early impressions of the draft Self-Study Report, which he also will receive.

The Middle States Evaluation Team will visit the University from March 17 to 20, 2013, for an intense period of peer review, meeting with groups of stakeholders at each of our residential and regional campuses. Six weeks in advance of the team visit we must submit our final Self-Study Report. More details about the team visit will be available as the dates draw nearer. By mid-summer, Middle States will issue its official statement on the status of our accreditation.

It goes without saying that with so many of our students dependent on financial assistance from federal sources, successful reaccreditation for this University is a *sine qua non*. Therefore, I encourage you to support this ongoing effort by offering constructive feedback, participating in open meetings, or speaking with members of the Evaluation Team. There will be more updates as the year progresses and many opportunities to contribute to a successful outcome.

Many thanks and more to follow.