## LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Long Island University Community

**FROM:** David J. Steinberg

**DATE:** May 3, 2011

**SUBJECT:** University Update

The most important agenda item of the Board Meeting held on April 12, 2011, was the granting of tenure and faculty promotions. Nine probationary faculty members of the Brooklyn Campus and seven at the C.W. Post Campus were granted tenure. The Board, in making its decision to grant these 16 members of Long Island University lifetime contracts tangibly reaffirmed the University's commitment to the educational quality of the academic life of the institution. In addition, across the University 19 faculty were promoted to Associate Professor and five were elevated to full professorships. These votes took place after the Academic Affairs Committee had reviewed in great detail each candidate.

The Board also received and accepted the report from the American Council on Education focusing on how best to strengthen efforts to internationalize the University. It commended the many faculty and staff who were active in the Internationalization Laboratory project for promoting globalization with the multiple goals of bringing high quality students from abroad to Long Island University, sending faculty and students to study elsewhere in the world, and encouraging a growing emphasis on a global perspective in both core and departmental requirements at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

As fiduciaries of the University, the Board focuses its attention constantly on the financial health of the University. It received a further update on spring enrollment at the end of the eight week reporting period which indicated overall that there has been a slight decline in "credits sold" from Spring 2010 to Spring 2011. The University's chief financial officer, Rob Altholz, still forecasts an excess of revenue over expenses for the current academic year of \$5.6 million, provided expenses are controlled and, most important, summer enrollment is strong. Summer revenues account for approximately 10 percent of the annual budget, and forecasting that figure is always more art than science. Trustee Michael Emmerman '67, Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, commended the University for increasing financial aid for our students from \$61 million to \$85 million. The Board was also particularly encouraged by five new \$1 million gifts made in the last few months and the University's endowment currently is valued at more than \$86 million.

The University's faculty and students are having an outstanding year. For example, Professor Jonathan Hayes of the Brooklyn Campus English Department has won a prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Award for 2011. Two Brooklyn Campus students have won Jeannette Watson Fellowships for the next several years, and the C.W. Post Symphonic Band performed brilliantly at Carnegie Hall under the direction of Professor James McRoy. There is growing excitement across the University as faculty spearheads new opportunities to enhance and improve student learning.

Our Brooklyn colleagues will welcome seven learning community cohorts to campus this fall; as part of the ongoing Freshman Year Experience project at C.W. Post, faculty are looking at what students learn and at new ways of measuring classroom learning.

Our athletic programs continue to produce winning teams and, far more important, our student-athletes have experienced success in the classroom. Both men's basketball teams advanced to their respective NCAA national tournaments. I hope that many of you watched the Blackbirds play their hearts out on national television during prime time against the University of North Carolina. Trustees Joel Press '68 and Brian Land '86, Provost Haynes and I were part of a fervent, excited group of supporters who travelled to Charlotte. The University had 350 tickets and it seemed as if all of the other 18,000 seats in that vast arena were filled with local Chapel Hill alumni and supporters. But on national television Jimmy Fallon decided we were the team to back, featured us three separate times on his late night comedy show, and gave the University a level of publicity that could not be purchased at any price. It was a sweet taste of March Madness for us all.

At the Board meeting, the Trustees were pleased to welcome John Suarez and Bryan Collins, the Athletic Directors from Brooklyn and C.W. Post, respectively, as well as Jim Ferry, the Brooklyn men's basketball coach. All three spoke with pride and passion about encouraging students to strive for academic success. There are, for example, 135 student-athletes at C.W. Post who appear on the ECC Conference Honor Roll with a GPA higher than 3.25, and 17 who achieved a GPA of 4.0. Also at C.W. Post, 82 percent of its NCAA Division II student-athletes graduate within six years of initial enrollment, which is higher than the national average, and student-athletes have contributed more than 4,000 hours of community service this year alone. The accomplishments of our Brooklyn Campus student-athletes are equally impressive. One hundred and ten student-athletes (55 percent) were named to the Northeast Conference Honor Roll and 15 more were placed on the Commissioner's Honor Roll with a GPA of at least 3.75. Again, these student-athletes played leadership roles in blood drives, holiday toy collection efforts, volleyball and basketball clinics, the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk and many other activities. At both residential campuses our student-athletes enjoy graduation rates that are significantly higher than those of the general student population. They are living proof of the educational value of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. At both the Brooklyn and C.W. Post commencement ceremonies, two of the recent valedictorians have been student-athletes.

Shortly after the Board Meeting the Brooklyn Campus Faculty Senate met and formally extended its participation in the governance structure, as mandated by the agreement signed in 2006. In 2003 the Middle States evaluation team report identified governance as a top priority to be addressed. The next steps await the decision of the C.W. Post faculty to engage in the process, allowing the formal establishment of a newly constituted University Faculty Senate. Brooklyn and College of Pharmacy faculty have been regularly attending full Board meetings and, equally important, the working committees of the Board. Trustees have that reciprocal right.

As the final step in the collaborative process of drafting the Design for Institutional Self-Study, the Board of Trustees reviewed the Design, gave its formal approval and urged every segment of the University to engage fully in the self-study process over the next 18 months. Subsequently, Dr. Barbara Loftus, Vice President of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and our institutional liaison, visited the University on April 26<sup>th</sup>. She met with the Drafting & Oversight Committee, members of the four Working Groups, the University Officers, Trustees, Students and other stakeholders -- more than 100 people. She indicated that our Strategic Agenda will serve as a solid framework for the full Self-Study Report that will be submitted in Fall 2012. The Middle States evaluation team will likely visit the University during Spring 2013. I am delighted to report that Dr. Loftus said she was impressed with the Self-Study Design, the work achieved to date, and the breadth of engagement by the University's many stakeholders. The Self-Study Design and information about the University's Middle States activities can be found online at (http://liu.edu/About/Accreditation/Middle-States.aspx).

Commencement ceremonies are approaching rapidly, along with the flurry of activities that signify the end of another academic term. We anticipate celebrating the success of approximately 1,500 undergraduates from both campuses and more than 2,500 students from the various graduate and doctoral programs. These are joyful moments and I appreciate that so many of you are active participants in making those days so special. I thank each and every one of you for playing your critical part.