

From: [Marist Faculty](#) on behalf of [Thomas Wermuth](#)
To: [MARFAC](#)
Subject: [MARFAC] Update on Middle States Re-accreditation Process
Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 4:26:27 PM

Dear Members of the Marist Community:

As you are aware, Marist has begun our re-accreditation process through the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. This re-accreditation is essential to our operations and provides an opportunity to come together as a campus for examination and reflection on our own practices. The self-study, which is at the heart of this re-accreditation process, will be launched this Fall and continue through the Spring of 2023, when an external team comprised of members from peer and aspirant institutions visits our campus.

Since the summer, the Steering Committee has convened regularly to design a self-study process that will be transparent, inclusive, and comprehensive. Steering Committee members have provided valuable guidance for the process to date and will continue to oversee the effort to its conclusion. With tremendous gratitude, we would like to thank Steering Committee members for their dedication to this endeavor: Harrison Baker, Geoffrey Brackett, Ron Coleman, Christina Daniele, Kate Donham, Maryellen Guardino, Sean Kaylor, Carolyn Matheus, Marisa Moore, Robyn Rosen, James Snyder, Martin Shaffer, Tenzin Tsundu, and Elisa Woolridge.

Shortly, more than 100 members of the Marist community will be invited to serve in key roles on working groups. These working groups, composed of faculty, staff, administrators, students, and trustees, are charged with gathering, reviewing, and analyzing evidence to assure the College's close alignment with the Standards for Accreditation. We anticipate a collaborative and reflective process as we engage together as a community on this effort.

Informed by the Listening Sessions that took place earlier this year as well as input gathered from across campus, the Steering Committee has also identified three Institutional Priorities that will guide our self-study. These priorities will be infused throughout the process and working groups will explore our progress in these key directions. Institutional Priorities for self-study include:

1. *Enhancing and expanding high-impact practices to increase student engagement and success.*
2. *Strengthening and sustaining a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community.*
3. *Cultivating the College's adaptive business model for changing conditions to ensure long-term stability and vitality.*

The next step in the self-study process will be a preparation visit from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education VP Liaison, Bob Bonfiglio. Dr. Bonfiglio will visit Marist virtually on the morning of October 12. All members of the Marist community are invited to an open session at 11:15 a.m. to learn more about the re-accreditation process. Details on how to join this conversation are forthcoming.

Finally, key information and ongoing updates about the Middle States re-accreditation process can be found on Marist's Middle States Website: <https://www.marist.edu/middle-states>. The website also includes a link for communicating directly with the Steering Committee.

Thank you in advance for your engagement in this process of reflection and institutional renewal.

Sincerely,
Thom Wermuth, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Carol Rinke, Associate Professor of Education
Middle States Co-Chairs

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