

From: [Marist Staff](#) on behalf of [Thomas Wermuth](#)
To: [MARSTAFF](#)
Subject: [MARSTAFF] Middle States Reaccreditation Update
Date: Thursday, November 11, 2021 5:04:41 PM

To the Marist Community,

Yesterday President Weinman received word from our Middle States liaison, Vice President Bob Bonfiglio, that the Middle States Commission on Higher Education has accepted our self-study design – the document that describes how Marist plans to engage in a meaningful process toward reaccreditation and institutional renewal. By approving the self-study design, Dr. Bonfiglio accepted Marist’s intended outcomes for demonstrating compliance with all Middle States’ standards and requirements; focusing on continuous improvement to fulfill the college mission; using the process as an opportunity to reflect on institutional priorities; and upholding an inclusive and transparent process. Also accepted were Marist’s proposed institutional priorities, which serve to frame Marist’s self-study report:

1. Investigate opportunities to enhance and expand high-impact practices to increase student engagement and success
2. Explore ways to strengthen and sustain a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community
3. Research the College’s adaptive business model to prepare for changing conditions and to ensure long-term stability and vitality

Dr. Bonfiglio’s letter noted our Lines of Inquiry are “thoughtfully conceived” and “the Working Group Analysis framework and the Evidence Inventory Organizational framework are both comprehensive and clear.” He added, “Marist College’s commitment to a successful self-study process is highly apparent.” Previously, Dr. Bonfiglio commented positively on the robust campus-wide participation in his virtual visit on October 12. We wish to thank members of the Steering Committee for their excellent work on the self-study design and all members of the Marist community who participated in meetings with our liaison.

Next in this multi-step reaccreditation process is for working groups to begin collecting and analyzing Marist policies, practices, and outcomes to demonstrate compliance and reflect on institutional priorities as outlined in our self-study design. Membership on the working groups includes more than 100 faculty, administrators, students, alumni, and trustees. Their work is expansive, time-consuming, and critical not only to Marist’s ability to operate as a college but to thrive as an institution. We are grateful for their dedication to this effort and wish to acknowledge the co-chairs of the working groups:

I: Mission and Goals

Michael Caputo, *Vice President for Information Technology/CIO*
Pamela Harper, *Associate Professor of Marketing*

II: Ethics and Integrity

Sima Ahuja, *College Counsel*
Addrain Conyers, *Associate Professor and Department Chair of Criminal Justice and Director of Academic Diversity and Inclusion*

III: Design and Delivery of the Student Experience

Deborah Gatins, *Associate Professor of Psychology and Dean of the School of Social and*

Behavioral Sciences

Kevin Gaugler, *Professor of Modern Languages and Interim Assistant Dean for the School of Liberal Arts*

IV: Support of the Student Experience

Joseph Kirtland, *Professor and Department Chair of Mathematics*

Matthew McMahon, *Assistant Dean of Operations and Facilities*

V: Educational Effectiveness Assessment

Haseeb Arroon, *Director of Institutional Research*

Sally Dwyer-McNulty, *Professor of History and Director of the Core/Liberal Studies Program*

VI: Planning Resources, and Institutional Improvement

Christopher Algozzine, *Senior Professional Lecturer of Computer Science*

Beth Veasey, *Interim Vice President for Business Affairs/CFO*

VII: Governance, Leadership, and Administration

Jim Melitski, *Professor of Public Administration*

Emily Saland, *Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board of Trustees*

VIII: Evidence Inventory

Becky Albitz, *Director of the Library*

Michelle Stokes, *Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*

Members of the Marist community are invited to monitor progress toward key milestones as described on Marist's reaccreditation website: <https://www.marist.edu/middle-states>.

Thank you.

Thom Wermuth, Chair

Carol Rinke, Co-Chair

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