

February 15, 2006

Higher Learning  
30 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2400  
Chicago, IL 60602-2504

To the Members of the Consultant/Evaluator Team:

It is a privilege for Roosevelt University to be among the first institutions to seek re-accreditation under the Higher Learning Commission's new criteria established in 2005. Examining our institution in the light of these criteria and their core components has helped Roosevelt sharpen its focus on institutional priorities as we move forward on implementing our 2003 Strategic Plan and instituting program review of our academic units. The Higher Learning Commission's emphasis on institutional mission, continuous improvement, future planning, and societal engagement have reinforced Roosevelt's commitment to those very values and helped us keep to our core values as we have evaluated our institutional strengths and challenges.

A large number of people, representing all constituencies, have contributed to this Self-Study. It represents the collective understanding of the whole community and is endorsed by me and by the Board of Trustees. We appreciate the help that the staff of the Higher Learning Commission has provided to the members of our Self-Study Steering Committee. We are especially grateful to Diane Nyhammer and Bob Appleson, our Higher Learning Commission liaisons, who have been generous with their time and guidance. We are also grateful to the Commission for providing workshops and other collaborative sessions that have been of great help to members of our Steering Committee and others at the University in the preparation of the Self-Study.

With this comprehensive review, Roosevelt is seeking not only re-accreditation of the University as a whole, but also extension of our accreditation to offer fully online degree programs. Online education at Roosevelt is a relatively new enterprise but one that has been carefully developed and that has already earned national recognition for excellence. We hope, over time, to continue to expand our online offerings, and we are taking this opportunity to request formal review of this endeavor.

Roosevelt is enjoying a dynamic period of rapid change. Guided by the 2003 Strategic Plan and supported by our Board of Trustees, the University is breaking new ground—both literally and figuratively. The opportunity for consultation and constructive dialogue that is afforded by the re-accreditation process is most welcome during this time of institutional growth. On behalf of the whole University community, I welcome the team of consultant/evaluators and look forward to a stimulating and productive visit in the spring.

Very truly yours,

Charles R. Middleton