

To: The University Community

From: John Sexton

David McLaughlin

Norman Dorsen

Date: November 22, 2004

Re: Middle States Association Accreditation

We are pleased to report that at its meeting last week the Middle States Association Commission on Higher Education (MSA) reaffirmed New York University's accreditation. In doing so, MSA commended the quality of our self-study process and report.

This action follows a two-year process in which the University was engaged in a comprehensive study of undergraduate education. The self-study and numerous appendices were submitted to MSA in early March. An evaluation team, appointed by MSA and chaired by President Thomas Jackson of the University of Rochester, reviewed the self-study and visited the University in April. The self-study, the team report, and the University's response to the report may be viewed on the special NYU Middle States Self-Study website.

If you are unable to read the all the material, we suggest that you read the self-study's prologue and executive summary, the report of the MSA evaluation team, and the University's brief response to it. The self-study contains a series of recommendations for improving the quality of undergraduate education and student life at the University, and the evaluation team report made a number of suggestions that will be helpful to this effort. Many of these recommendations and suggestions have been implemented or are being implemented. Professor Norman Dorsen, who chaired the self-study, is coordinating the implementation effort, working with Provost David McLaughlin, deans and University administrators to determine whether or not individual recommendations and suggestions should be implemented and, if so, when and by whom.

The undergraduate deans have been discussing the recommendations and suggestions at their meetings this academic year. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the self-study and helped with the evaluation team's visit, as well as those who are participating in the implementation process.