



Stony Brook University

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

TO: University Senate
FROM: Dennis N. Assanis, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
DATE: April 7, 2014

REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

MIDDLE STATES EVALUATION TEAM VISIT 3/31/14 – 4/2/14

Every ten years, the University is subject to a review of its accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). We have just completed a two-year self-study process that culminated with an external evaluation of our institution by a MSCHE-appointed evaluation team with the purpose of ensuring compliance with the Commission's 14 outlined standards of excellence. This is an important event in the life of an institution: a time to examine its goals and programs, to obtain advice and validation from peers at other institutions, and to seek public reaffirmation by its regional accrediting agency. Due to the size, complexity and scope of an institution such as ours, Stony Brook engaged in a comprehensive self-study, which investigated topics such as the assessment of institutional effectiveness and student learning, the interdisciplinarity of knowledge, the integration of our educational offerings and research activities, the inclusion of diversity and internationalization in our curricula, as well as many other issues of key importance in the development of plans that will shape the future of Stony Brook.

I would like to sincerely thank the many members of our community who participated in our self-study efforts, the Middle States Steering Committee, those who provided valuable feedback on the draft of our self-study document and all community members who met with the MSCHE evaluation team during the self-study visit. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of our self-study Co-Chairs Charles Robbins, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of the Undergraduate Colleges, Daniel Davis, Professor and Chair of Geosciences, Lauren Tacke-Cushing, Middle States Coordinator, and Dr. Jason E. Lane, Associate Provost for Graduate Education and Research, SUNY. The MSCHE evaluation team stated that they were very impressed with how Stony Brook is fulfilling our mission of pursuing excellence through our educational, research, economic development, healthcare and diversity initiatives. To learn more about the Middle States process and to access the self-study report, please visit stonybrook.edu/middlestates.

The following is the membership of the MSCHE evaluation team:

- Dr. William E. Kirwan, Evaluation Team Chair, Chancellor, University System of Maryland
- Dr. James K. Broomall, Associate Provost, Division of Professional and Continuing Studies, University of Delaware
- Dr. Mark Hagerott, Senior Civilian and Deputy Director, Center for Cyber Security Studies, United States Naval Academy

- Dr. Jacqueline Hodes, Assistant Professor, Department of Counselor Education, West Chester University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Ronnie E. Holden, Vice President for Administrative Affairs, University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Dr. Lisa C. Klein, Professor II, Materials Science and Engineering Department, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
- Dr. Keith Jackson, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Morgan State University
- Dr. Laurie Pierce, Instructor, Clarion State University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Hal Strelnick, Assistant Dean for Community Engagement, Professor of Family and Social Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, Montefiore Medical Center (MMC)

The Chair of the MSCHE evaluation team will provide the Commission with the final team report by May 7, 2014, and Stony Brook University has until May 14, 2014 to respond to the final team report. At the end of June 2014, we will receive notification of the final MSCHE action with respect to our reaccreditation.

SEARCH FOR DEAN OF INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

I am pleased to announce that the Office of the Provost has initiated a national search for our next Dean of International Academic Programs. Dr. Charles Taber, Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dr. Patricia Wright, Professor of Anthropology and Founder of Centre ValBio in Madagascar, are co-chairing the search committee, which is comprised of the following members of our community:

- John Bailyn: Associate Professor, Linguistics
- Harsh Bhasin: Visiting Professor of International Relations, Political Science Department
- Eva Carceles Poveda: Associate Professor, Economics
- David Ferguson: Chair, Technology and Society and Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion
- Richard Gatteau: Associate Provost for Academic Success
- Silvia Ghinassi: Graduate Student Organization representative
- Sarah Jourdain: Assistant Professor, French and Pedagogy and Director of the Foreign Language Teacher Preparation Program
- Imin Kao: Associate Dean, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
- Craig Lehmann: Dean, School of Health Technology Management
- Mario Mignone: Distinguished Service Professor and Director of the Center for Italian Studies
- Timothy Moran: Associate Professor, Sociology
- Melody Pena: Undergraduate Student Government representative
- Mark Sedler: Professor, Psychiatry and Associate Dean for International Programs, School of Medicine
- Matthew Whelan: Vice President for Strategic Initiatives
- Lee Xippolitos: Dean, School of Nursing
- Dongmei Zeng: Provost Outstanding Lecturer and Director of China Studies Program

Reporting to the Provost, the Dean of IAP is responsible for developing and overseeing a variety of university-wide initiatives and policies related to international research, education, and collaborations at SBU. The Dean seeks to promote and develop SBU's global activities across its schools, foster coordination among them, oversee and review international endeavors, and set policies to establish best practices. He/she will be responsible for further internationalizing SBU, and will work with academic units to internationalize the curriculum, develop global studies and programs, and promote international educational opportunities both on-campus and overseas. The Dean of IAP will foster the development of a new Global Studies program, as well as administer the international summer school at SBU. The incumbent will further develop and coordinate SBU's international recruitment and enrollment efforts for undergraduates in collaboration with Admissions and Enrollment Management, as well as assist in the international graduate admissions process.

The Dean of IAP will be responsible for overseeing visa and immigration services for students, visiting scholars, faculty, and researchers at SBU. He/she will also oversee SBU's study abroad and exchange programs. The Dean will have oversight over the Intensive English Center, the Confucius Institute, the institutes for Global Studies and Cognitive and Cultural Studies, and the University's Fulbright programs. He/she will coordinate with existing on-campus international centers and institutes, as well as overseas sites, including SUNY Korea. The Dean will coordinate international sponsored programs, and will be responsible for reviewing proposals to develop inter-faculty initiatives on global topics and, working collaboratively with the Deans and the faculty, will also stimulate the development of such proposals. He/she will serve on the University Committee on International Risk Management, which is responsible for reviewing, overseeing and, if warranted, suspending SBU activities abroad.

The posting for the position can be found at:

<http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/provost/category/faculty/DeanInternational.html>

MAY 2014 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

I would like to invite our faculty to participate in our annual commencement ceremonies, which are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Doctoral Graduation & Hooding Ceremony

Pritchard Gym

1:00 PM

(Line up begins at 12:00 PM)

Baccalaureate Honors Ceremony

Pritchard Gym

6:30 PM

(Line up begins at 5:30 PM)

Friday, May 23, 2014

54th Annual Commencement Exercises

Kenneth P. La Valle Stadium

11:00 AM

(Line up beings at 10:00 a.m. behind the Sports Complex)

Faculty who plan on attending these ceremonies should RSVP to Conferences & Special Events at 632-6320 or by email at conferences.events@stonybrook.edu. If you require regalia, orders can be placed up until May 2, 2014 by following the directions on the commencement website at: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/commencement/faculty.html>. If you have previously used this website, your information is saved in the database. All you need to do is enter your name, make sure the information is up-to-date, and submit your order. Ordered cap and gowns will be available for pick-up at the University Bookstore as of May 18, 2014. All rentals should be returned to the Bookstore promptly after the commencement ceremonies. The bookstore will be open until 5:00 p.m. on May 23, 2014.

APRIL 2014 PROVOST LECTURE SERIES

The Provost's Lecture Series is hosting two very special lectures this week. The first is a talk by Alva Noë, entitled "See Me if You Can!: Art and the Limits of Neuroscience" on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 4 p.m. in the Humanities Building, Room 1006. The second lecture presented by Itsik Pe'er, is entitled "Sequencing the Ashkensazi Genome" and will take place on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. in the Wang Center, Lecture Hall 2.

Alva Noë is a writer, philosopher and author of *Action in Perception* (MIT Press, 2004); *Out of Our Heads* (Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2009); and most recently, *Varieties of Presence* (Harvard University Press, 2012). Noë received his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1995 and is a Professor of Philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley, where he is also a member of the Institute for Cognitive and Brain Sciences and the Center for New Media. He previously was a Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Noë is a 2012 recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship, and is a weekly contributor to National Public Radio's science blog *13.7: Cosmos and Culture*.

Itsik Pe'er is an Associate Professor of Computer Science and the Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics at Columbia University. His research involves developing computational methods for analysis of human genetic variation as part of the Genetic Analysis Information Network and the Cancer Genome Atlas projects. Previously, Dr. Pe'er participated in the International HapMap project during his postdoctoral research at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT. He holds BSc, MSc and Ph.D. degrees in computer science from Tel Aviv University, where he developed computational solutions to problems in genome sequencing and evolution.

UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED LECTURE IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Dr. David Conover and I were delighted to host Professor Ben Shneiderman from the University of Maryland on April 4, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. in the Wang Center Theater as a speaker in our series

of University Distinguished Lectures in Science and Engineering. Professor Shneiderman gave a talk entitled “Information Visualization for Knowledge Discovery.” Ben Shneiderman was the Founding Director of the Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory, which last year celebrated its 30-year anniversary, and the Institute for Advanced Computer Studies, at the University of Maryland. His work is based on tools for interactive visualization of information that provide researchers with remarkable capabilities for discovery and insight into data. The central theme of his talk is the interface of statistics with visualization as applied to time-series data, such as electronic health records and social network data, which can lead to finding meaningful patterns and important exceptions. Professor Shneiderman is a prominent alumnus of Stony Brook University, having received his Ph.D. in Computer Science in 1973. He is a Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Computer Science at UMD, a member of the National Academy of Engineering, and Fellow of AAAS, ACM and IEEE.

SUMMER INSTITUTE ON UNDERGRADUATE STEM EDUCATION 7/7/14 - 7/10/14

The Undergraduate STEM Education Committee, with support from the Faculty Center in TLT, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Center for Science and Mathematics Education, and the Office of the Provost, is pleased to announce a Summer Institute on Undergraduate STEM Education for faculty from all STEM disciplines at Stony Brook. The central Institute activity, a three-and-a-half day workshop on the Stony Brook campus in July 2014, will expose participants to the principles of scientific teaching through presentations by national leaders in STEM education and team-based activities to develop tools for improving student learning outcomes in our classrooms. Participation in the Institute will be valuable for any faculty involved in undergraduate education, in all STEM disciplines, from Anatomical Sciences to Technology and Society. Faculty selected for the Institute will be formally and individually recognized. Further information on the application process will be coming shortly. In the meantime, individual faculty who are interested should contact David Ferguson at david.ferguson@stonybrook.edu to make sure that they are on the distribution list for this solicitation.

ARTISTS, AUTHORS AND EDITORS RECEPTION

On Tuesday, April 22, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. in the Wang Chapel, Stony Brook University will be hosting an Artists, Authors and Editors reception. This annual exhibition affords SBU faculty artists, authors and editors the opportunity to share the diversity in the depth and breadth of the scientific, scholarly, and creative activity that they help to create on the Stony Brook campus.

EARTHSTOCK 2014

Stony Brook will host Earthstock, a week-long celebration surrounding environmental awareness and sustainability, from 4/21/14-4/25/14. Stony Brook University is at the vanguard of the sustainability movement. Our commitment to a green future is evident everywhere on our 1,039 acres: from reducing our carbon footprint, to advocating recycling and using recycled materials whenever possible, to promoting alternatively fueled transportation. For more information on SBU’s 2014 Earthstock program, please visit <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/earthstock/>.

ADMITTED STUDENTS DAY

Admitted students, and their families, were invited to campus on Saturday, April 5, 2014 to meet with faculty, students and staff to learn more about our campus and life at Stony Brook. This year's Admitted Student Day was an overwhelming success. We estimate that approximately 5000 people attended (more than 1800 students), from 21 different states. Saturday's program was preceded by a very successful event on Friday for 100 of our top STEM admits at Brookhaven National Lab. On Saturday afternoon we also hosted special receptions for student accepted to the Honors College, University Scholars, WISE and EOP/AIM. We have archived some of the excitement from the day (as well individual tweets from the students themselves) onto this Storify: <https://storify.com/stonybrooku/admitted-student-day-2014>