Every ten years KU undergoes an extensive self-study to prepare for a university-wide re-accreditation review by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Accreditation assures our students that their academic programs meet nationally recognized standards. Accreditation is also required in order for KU to receive federal funds for student financial aid and research. KU received the full ten-year accreditation after the most recent visit in 1994.

For the past two years a steering committee and working group led by Barbara Romzek have worked on compiling the accomplishments of KU and assembling evidence that KU has met the five criteria for re-accreditation. I invite you to examine the review copy of the self-study report at http://www.ku.edu/~oirp/NCA/ReportTOC.shtml. As the report totals nearly 300 pages, the information supporting the criteria has been condensed into a 20-page executive summary. The summary is a broad overview of the themes in each criterion. The full report provides the rich details of what makes KU truly distinctive.

A twelve-person team of consultant-evaluators from other research universities in the Midwest will visit campus from January 31-February 2. They will receive a copy of the self-study with supplemental materials to help them prepare for that visit.

We invite you to examine this review copy of the self-study report. Questions and comments are most welcome and the website provides information on the format for providing comments. The report will be finalized in the next ten days, then printed for distribution to the reviewers. Copies of the final report will also be available in the KU libraries and on the KU website.

Early readers and contributors to the report have commented how much they learned about KU by reading this self-study. I hope you have the same experience and will take great pride in the collective accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff.