

To: Faculty, Staff and Students
From: Jehuda Reinharz, President, Brandeis University
Date: April 3, 2006
Subject: Invitation to Community Forum on Re-Accreditation by NEASC

Every ten years, Brandeis University must be re-accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). In November 2006, a re-accreditation team from NEASC, chaired by President John Sexton of New York University, will be on campus as part of the re-accreditation process. In preparation for re-accreditation, we began over a year ago with the formation of fourteen faculty and staff committees charged with the responsibility of addressing the eleven standards that comprise the basis for re-accreditation. With the leadership of the Executive Committee, composed of Provost Marty Krauss, Executive Vice President Peter French and Senior Vice President for Students and Enrollment Jean Eddy, and with guidance and feedback from the University Advisory Council, which is acting as the Steering Committee, a draft of the required Self-Study document has been prepared and is available online to members of the Brandeis community.

Each standard was drafted by one of the re-accreditation committees and then reviewed by standing committees of the faculty and appropriate staff groups. The Student Union and the Committee on Graduate Student Issues reviewed two of the standards, which pertain to students. All of the standards of the Self-Study were written to inform the external re-accreditation committee about Brandeis, while supplying evidence to support claims and exploring possibilities for the future. The final Self-Study document will be submitted to NEASC and the accreditation committee this summer.

I invite you to attend a community forum on April 7, from 1:30-3:00 p.m. in Olin-Sang at which the Executive Committee will give a summary presentation on the Self-Study, focusing on academic issues, students and resources. This forum provides an opportunity for all members of the campus community to better understand the University and to ask questions about the Self-Study. I urge you to read the Self-Study. The website also offers a way to provide feedback on the Self-Study through a special MyBrandeis online forum.

I look forward to seeing you at the open forum on April 7. If you have any questions about re-accreditation, please contact Associate Provost Michael Whelan at mwhelan@brandeis.edu.