

Date: September 13, 2005
To: Brandeis Community
From: Marty Krauss and Peter French
Co-Chairs of the NEASC Re-Accreditation
Subject: University Re-Accreditation

Welcome back to campus. We realize that this is a busy time, but we wanted to call your attention to the fact that this year Brandeis faculty and staff will be focused on our re-accreditation preparations for The New England Association for Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Our last review in 1996 was very successful and identified important university goals and challenges that have subsequently guided institutional change.

NEASC provides standards that act as guidelines for the information needed for re-accreditation. These eleven standards guide our preparation of a self-study document. The standards have been in revision over the past two years and revisions have focused on five major themes: information and technology; assessment; public disclosure; quality of the academic program; and responsibility and integrity.

Over the course of this academic year, our self-study document will be produced by faculty and administrators with final feedback from the entire community. It is formally submitted to NEASC before their Visiting Committee comes to campus in the fall of 2006.

Our intention is to draw on existing faculty committees to minimize the workload of faculty and to maximize their feedback and advice. The University Advisory Council has agreed to act as a steering committee for this process. In addition, we expect that faculty will act as reviewers of data and draft documents that will be prepared mostly by administrative staff.

Outreach by individual committees will occur throughout this semester and into next year, as will frequent updates from both of us. We believe that frequent and open communication with faculty, staff and students will be critical to achieving the positive outcome that we all expect and seek.

Our goal is to have a draft self-study available for community feedback in April. For more information, including a detailed timeline, committees and past accreditation materials, see our website at www.brandeis.edu/neasc

