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DECEMBER ²⁰⁰⁶ NOTES

On November 28, after spending a wonderful afternoon at Simmons, I completed visits to 17 ANAC campuses. I cannot adequately express the excitement I feel, having visited so many of our member campuses and met such bright and interesting new colleagues. I am deeply impressed with our institutions and the people who keep them energized and evolving, and I appreciate the generous hospitality extended to me everywhere I went.

I also made two trips to Washington: one with Steve Jennings and John Ross to meet with Higher Education Associations, *U.S. News & World Report* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*; and the other to attend a meeting of the NAICU Secretariat, of which ANAC is a member. I took great pride in representing you in Washington.

My plan for the immediate future is to continue synthesizing the ideas and recommendations that I heard during my travels for discussion at meetings in January and February with presidents and provosts. There are a few activities, however, for which I found support for immediate action. These are:

Establishing more inter-institutional "affinity groups." It is clear from my visits that one of the primary benefits of ANAC membership is the ability to converse easily and candidly with colleagues in comparable positions at similar institutions. Since returning to Boston, I have created email lists for directors of communications, enrollment management/admissions, institutional research, and IT I am working on similar lists for other areas. Robiaun Charles, University Diversity Officer at Evansville, is reaching out to her counterparts at ANAC institutions; and Michael McGreevey, Executive Assistant to President Peggy Williams at Ithaca, is working to develop an exchange among the members of his professional peer group. Some of these groups have expressed interest in meeting during the June Summer Institute at Elon University and in creating ANAC *regional* affinity groups to promote staff participation. The Midwest and Northeast would be ideal regions to pilot this idea.

Implementing domestic exchange programs. ANAC Study Abroad is slowly growing. Now in its third year, the program has 17 participants. There is interest in opening the exchange to short term domestic and study abroad program and in introducing a pilot domestic exchange program. The advice I heard repeatedly was to keep the process simple financially but the experience organized enough to ensure that students feel a part of the exchange-institution. We will discuss this at our upcoming meetings; if there is agreement, it should not be difficult to begin offering the opportunity to students for next fall.

Creating a more public-oriented Web site. Without changing its basic structure, I am working to keep the Web site (www.anac.org) updated and to make it more helpful to external audiences as well as to members. We still have work to do, but one can now easily access admissions, news, and directions to each campus by scrolling over the campus name and learn more directly about the organization and its institutions. I have written to communications directors about our developing and posting an ANAC Speakers Bureau on the Web site, to which I can then refer the media. I am particularly interested in including higher education policy issues that presidents and provosts, as well as faculty experts, feel comfortable in addressing.

Developing a common advertisement for ANAC positions. I will prepare an advertisement of faculty and administrative positions open at ANAC institutions for fall 2007 to place in *The Chronicle* in early February. It is a way to draw public attention to New American Colleges and to the benefits of teaching and working in our type of academic environment. ANAC will pay for the advertisement, and campuses can monitor responses. I will be working through IREPS and whomever you designate on your campus to provide the information.

Upcoming Meetings. A calendar of spring meetings can be found on the ANAC Web site. Discussion about ANAC's purpose and priorities will begin in Tucson with an informal conversation with presidents attending the CIC President's Institute. That will be followed by the IREP meeting at AAC&U in New Orleans, the official President's Council meeting at NAICU in early February, and meetings with CFOs and SSAOs in the spring. For those of you unable to be physically present at these meetings, we can conference you in by phone for a part of the meeting.

This is an important time for ANAC. Before we can expand, we will want to have a clear vision of our purpose and a commitment from current members to move forward. I am confident that new American colleges and universities can individually and collectively play an even more significant leadership role in American higher education, and I look forward to working with you to achieve that goal.

I welcome your suggestions and responses and look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks.

May you have a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

Warmly,

Lynette