



Patrick F. Leahy

April 21, 2016

Dear Members of the Campus Community:

I am pleased to report to you another significant step towards the objectives included in the University's Strategic Plan: Gateway to the Future.

Among the six themes of the Strategic Plan is Theme 4: Improve Our Financial Strength. For the past six months, University CFO Chip Prescott, University Controller Janet Kobylski, and her team in the University Finance Office, along with a special subcommittee of our Board of Trustees have been working to refinance our debt to take advantage of low interest rates. This refinancing will reduce the costs associated with the University's long-term indebtedness.

Earlier this week, the University successfully marketed new bonds that will: 1) reduce our overall borrowing costs; 2) moderate increases in upcoming annual debt service payments; and, 3) accelerate the payment of debt principal. In total, this transaction will produce savings to the University of over \$3.7 million on a net present value basis.

This transaction, along with another debt refinancing planned for Fall 2016, will put the University in a very positive financial position for the foreseeable future. Our bond representative said that "the pricing results are incredibly strong for a BBB-rated higher education institution in Pennsylvania, which is a testament to the strong credit profile at Wilkes."

Restructuring our indebtedness is just one way that we will continue to improve our long-term financial health. In addition, we as a community must continue to generate positive operating surpluses every year. And, of course, we are in the planning stages of a comprehensive fundraising campaign, which will further strengthen our financial profile in the years ahead.

I am happy to discuss this positive development at a future faculty meeting and at the open staff meetings that are scheduled in early May. Until then, please join me in thanking Chip Prescott and his team for a job very well-done.

Sincerely,

Patrick F. Leahy
President