To: Interested Members of the Higher Education Community

From: William "Brit" Kirwan, Chancellor, University System of Maryland
       Nicholas S. Zeppos, Chancellor, Vanderbilt University

Re: Feedback Needed on Burdensome Federal Regulations

Date: March 14, 2014

Dear Colleagues:

We write today as co-chairs of the Task Force on Government Regulation of Higher Education
to seek your assistance and input. The Task Force was appointed by a bipartisan group of
senators—Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Michael Bennet (D-CO), and
Richard Burr (R-NC)—with the charge of identifying specific federal regulations that are both
burdensome to colleges and universities and provide little benefit to the government and the
public. These senators understand that the federal government's over-regulation of American
higher education is detrimental to the country. However, the goal of this effort is not simply to
eliminate regulations; instead, it is to create a more efficient and effective regulatory process.

Composed of 16 presidents and chancellors representing the broad spectrum of American higher
education, the Task Force has been charged with a comprehensive review of the regulatory
requirements affecting colleges and universities, with a focus on regulations stemming from the
Higher Education Act and, more broadly, from the Department of Education. The Task Force has
been asked to provide specific recommendations to streamline and reduce regulations while at
the same time ensuring that important student and taxpayer protections are maintained.

The scope of our effort is as follows:

1) Provide specific recommendations to consolidate, streamline, and eliminate burdensome,
   costly and/or confusing regulations, legislation, and reporting requirements;

2) Review and quantify the extent of all federal reporting and regulatory requirements with
   which institutions must comply, including estimates of the time and costs associated with
   specific regulations and requirements; and

3) Provide recommendations for reform to ensure future regulations are promulgated in a
   manner that appropriately considers existing law and accurately examines the costs and
   benefits to taxpayers, institutions, and students.

The following leaders from higher education have agreed to serve on the Task Force:

- Sen. William Armstrong, president, Colorado Christian University
- Bruce Benson, president, University of Colorado
- Molly Corbett Broad, president, American Council on Education (ACE)
- Thomas Chema, president, Hiram College (OH)
- Margaret L. Drugovich, president, Hartwick College (NY)

- Dana Gibson, president, Sam Houston State University (TX)
- Brice Harris, chancellor, California Community College System
- Jonathan Kaplan, chief executive officer, Laureate Online Education (MD)
- Cornelius "Neil" Kerwin, president, American University (DC)
- J. Michael Locke, vice chairman, Rasmussen College (IL)
- Harold L. Martin, Sr., chancellor, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
- Claude Pressnell, Jr., president, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association
- Thomas Ross, president, The University of North Carolina
- Robert Templin, Jr., president, Northern Virginia Community College

In addition, our colleagues at ACE are staffing the Task Force. The ACE team working on this project includes: Terry Hartle, senior vice president; Sang Han, senior policy advisor, government relations; Anne Hickey, director of government relations; and Jessie Brown, associate general counsel.

If you have specific recommendations on ways to streamline and improve higher education regulations consistent with the charge outlined above, we encourage you to submit them to regulations@acenet.edu by **April 30.**

With the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act on the horizon and the willingness of key senators to assist us, this project represents a critical opportunity for us to address a major concern that all of us as leaders of higher education institutions share.

Thank you for your assistance on this important effort.