January 12, 2009

President Christoph M. Kimmich
Brooklyn College
The City University of New York
2900 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11210

Dear Christoph:

I am responding to your January 12 letter indicating that you will be retiring from the presidency of Brooklyn College this summer. On both a personal and professional level, I am deeply grateful for all that you have contributed and everything that you have achieved during nearly four decades of highly distinguished service on behalf of Brooklyn College and The City University of New York. Your commitment to enhancing academic quality, maximizing student success, and positively transforming the physical learning environment is a matter of public record. I know that you are deservedly proud of your accomplishments, and you should feel a profound sense of satisfaction in knowing that so many have students benefited from your enduring support of their educational advancement.

Through your steadfast leadership, Brooklyn College has hired 273 new faculty since the fall of 2000, which is more than half of the current full-time teaching faculty at the college, and more hires than during the past three decades combined. Student enrollment in fall 2008 was 16,690, an increase of 11 percent over fall 2000, during a period when admission standards were steadily increased, consistent with University objectives. Together with the faculty, you undertook a major revision of the college’s already highly praised core curriculum, further strengthening its currency, choice, and quality. Your work in support of the Macaulay Honors College and the Minority Access to Research Careers Program, within the rubric of a growing Honors Academy, created enriched academic opportunities for students and faculty and burnished the college’s historic tradition of high academic values. Each year has seen more faculty and student winners of national awards.

One need only visit the fully renovated Brooklyn College Library or the Morton and Angel Topfer Library Cafe to see physical evidence of the impact of your successful efforts to provide modern facilities conducive to learning. Future generations will greatly benefit from the work under way to complete the West Quad and to design the New Performing Arts Center, the Roosevelt Science Building, and the new student residence hall.

I look forward to many appropriate occasions over the coming months to publicly recognize these and your many other accomplishments and to thank you for all you have done to improve the quality of life for students, faculty, staff, and alumni at the University.

Sincerely,

Matthew Goldstein

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