

November 8, 2023

Dear Members of the Seattle University Community,

A small group of colleagues from other Jesuit universities will visit you soon as part of the **Mission Priority Examen (MPE)**. With this process of self-study and peer review, Seattle will have the opportunity to think deeply about its shared Jesuit and Catholic identity and structure practical goals for the future. We work together with the other 26 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States to advance our shared identity, working collaboratively with the AJCU and the Society of Jesus.

A great deal of work from many of you has already gone into the self-study process, a process that has already achieved much to focus on mission and identity. The next step of the MPE process is the site visit with me and my colleagues listed below. We are very much looking forward to meeting many of you. We hope to walk with you during this visit, learn about the mission commitments and aspirations of Seattle University, and offer you feedback that helps you refine your mission priorities moving forward.

We intend to root the MPE visit in the style and spirit of the Ignatian Examen and shared community conversations. The choice of the term “Examen,” both for our visit and for your own reflection, is intentional. It grounds our process in the gratitude inherent in our Jesuit character and emphasizes that the MPE is a prayerful and collegiate exercise in which dialogue plays a significant part.

During the visit, you can expect members of the Peer Visitor Team to engage in a series of listening sessions, asking questions such as:

- What are you grateful for as you consider how the Seattle University community lives out its Jesuit, Catholic identity and mission values?
- What aspirations and hopes do you have to enhance the understanding and expression of these mission values in the future?
- Where do you see yourself and your work in the Mission Priorities advanced in the self-study?
- In what ways might you work toward the *magis* (i.e., the greater or more universal good) for Seattle University’s students and those who guide and work with them?

Our MPE visiting team is comprised of colleagues active in various dimensions of mission at other Jesuit institutions:

- Tania Tetlow: President, Fordham University
- Kevin Burke, SJ: Vice President for Mission, Regis University
- Xavier Cole: President, Loyola University, New Orleans
- Michael Kaufman: Dean, School of Law, Santa Clara University
- Claire Noonan: Vice President for Mission and Ministry, Loyola University Chicago

We look forward to learning from and with you during our visit. If I can assist you or respond to any questions or suggestions you may have, please let me know. Additional information on the Mission Priority Examen can be found at <https://ajcunet.edu/mission-and-identity/mission-priority-examen/>.

Looking forward to our conversations!

Best,



Tania Tetlow
MPE Visiting Team Chair
president@fordham.edu