



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC

## MEMORANDUM

September 23, 2005

**TO:** American University Parents  
**FROM:** Cornelius Kerwin, Acting President  
**SUBJECT:** Campus Update

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As we have reported previously, Dr. Benjamin Ladner was placed on administrative leave on August 24, and I am currently serving as acting president. Recent news reports have increased the volume of comment on the topic of the Board review.

First and most important, I want to thank the entire American University community for your patience, understanding, and support during this period. Our objective throughout has been to allow the Board the space they need to review all of the facts in this complex matter. The inquiry required confidentiality, extensive analysis and consideration of the interests of the parties involved; this constrains a public discussion of all facts at this time. When the inquiry concludes and final decisions are made, we will be able to communicate again and in greater detail.

Understandably, individuals and groups in the campus community have discussed the situation, will continue to do so, and no doubt wish to share their views. If you would like to provide your perspective, please call 202-885-3310 or send comments to me via email at [campuslife@american.edu](mailto:campuslife@american.edu).

I appreciate your understanding. Your support of American University is indispensable, as the Board moves forward toward resolution of this matter.