Announcement
As announced at the Founders Week Convocation Address, I am inviting the University into an Area Examen process. The Examen of Conscience of the Society of Jesus is a method of praying that is reflective of our experiences, including the presence of God. Developed by St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, it is representative of an Ignatian spirituality that is personal, practical, and accessible. It is also adaptable, and to this end, I ask us to embrace its dimensions of thoughtfulness and focus.

The purpose of the Area Examen is to recognize how each of our departments or units enhances the mission of Creighton as well as to consider institutional initiatives that continue propelling us forward. The process will result in shared discussions through our structures of leadership as well as in open forum on Friday, April 22, 2016. As we collectively discuss our contributions to our Catholic and Jesuit identity, and themes and issues that impact our campus, it will inform me on how Creighton University can continue planning for the future.

Instructions
Through the remainder of the semester, the chair or leader of your department or unit will invite you to discuss the Examen questions in a way that is suitable to your area. In turn, she or he will collate responses in themes, and share them in regularly scheduled college and divisional meetings with deans, directors, and the leadership structures of the university. To assist the process, each group should appoint a note-taker who will assist the chair or leader in recording and synthesizing shared responses.

Additionally, the group note-taker will be invited to attend an all-University roundtable discussion on Friday, April 22, from 9 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 3 p.m., in the Ahmanson Ballroom of the Harper Center. If you are not a note-taker of your group but would like to participate in one of the workshops, please feel welcome to attend. By April 15, note-takers and interested participants should RSVP for a morning or afternoon session. The registration links will be available in Creighton Today.

If chairs or leaders of departments or units would like the assistance of a group facilitator, please contact Carol Krajicek in the Division of Mission and Ministry at carolkrajicek@creighton.edu.

Examen Questions
1. How is our department or unit distinctive or expressive of Creighton’s Jesuit, Catholic educational mission? What contribution do we make that is special, important, and necessary to the daily life and work of Creighton? How might the following elements of Catholic and Jesuit identity be recognized in your area: faith expression, service to others, commitment to humanism, global perspective, and the pursuit of justice?

2. How do we contribute to the communal character of the University? How do we witness and celebrate the talent and contributions of our members? In regard to the varying contexts of our campus, our city, the nation, and the world, what challenges does our department or unit presently face? What social, cultural, economic, and technological realities affect our work?

3. How do we participate in and enhance academic excellence, community engagement, mission and identity, and stewardship of resources of the University?

4. How can we embrace and impact the issues of diversity, sustainability, service-learning, shared governance, and institutional planning?

5. In the course of the next five years, what do you dream or imagine will make Creighton University extraordinary?