It is with mixed feelings that I must share with you that Eric W. Kaler, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice President for Brookhaven Affairs at Stony Brook University since September 2007, has been named the finalist in the search to succeed President Robert Bruininks at the prestigious University of Minnesota (http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/about.php) when Bruininks leaves the presidency in June 2011.

We have been advised that the University of Minnesota Board of Regents will make an official announcement on this development today, and I wanted you to hear it from Stony Brook University first.

Becoming President of an institution that is a member of the American Association of Universities (http://www.aau.edu/about/default.aspx?id=3992) is what many aspire to, and few achieve. For Provost Kaler, it would be an even more significant accomplishment, as the University of Minnesota is where he received his PhD. It would be difficult for anyone of his caliber to pass up such a remarkable opportunity.

There is still more involved in the selection process, however, if the U of M Board of Regents sees in Provost Kaler what I see in him, what we see in him, there is little to decide.

I will provide an update as soon as more information becomes available.

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.
President