To Members of the Staffs

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Board of Higher Education is scheduled to name tonight Dr. Harold C. Syrett, presently Vice Chancellor of the State University of New York and formerly Professor and Dean at Queens College, as President of Brooklyn College, effective January 1, 1968. Dr. Syrett will bring to the presidency here a considerable experience and substantial accomplishment -- outlined later in this statement.

That there may be understanding of this action and of my present decision to start terminal leave on February 1, 1968, it is perhaps desirable to repeat the words of Board Chairman Porter R. Chandler at the time my title was changed from Acting President to President: "Dr. Kilcoyne has indicated his willingness to assume the responsibility of President with the understanding that he wishes to retire as soon as it is appropriate after the appointment of a successor."

While I may be available on occasion should President Syrett request any assistance it is my present intention to terminate all active association with the college on the indicated date.

I take this informal means to acknowledge with sincere thanks the warm spirit of cooperation by the staffs during my tenure as Dean and as President, and especially the several hundred very gracious letters addressed to me by alumni, students and colleagues in the past decade and particularly in the past year.

It would be helpful if I were permitted to leave the college under the same conditions that marked the start of my college teaching on February 1, 1928 -- without fanfare or function. My teaching and administrative experiences, and those associated with me in them -- and in a special way my former and present secretaries and administrative assistants -- have been and are most adequate satisfaction.

President Syrett inherits a student body the envy of many a prestigious "name" institution, a strong and able faculty, a most effective business management staff, superior senior administrators with excellent
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associates, and, a campus and plant well maintained under less than optimum conditions. I wish for him a continuation of the splendid relations I have enjoyed with individual alumni, the Alumni Association and its staff. In a special way I hope for a continuation of dialogue with student leaders and interested students who, on occasion, make known their concerns.

I need not stress the obvious: President Syrett is entitled to and will receive your whole-souled cooperation at the start of and throughout a career here that will witness not only plant expansion but developments in curriculum and administrative patterns on both graduate and undergraduate levels.

I shall discharge my responsibilities in the time remaining to me with your continuing understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Francis P. Kilcoyne
President

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