

## THE FELLOWS OF HARVARD COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNING BOARDS  
TELEPHONE: 617-495-1534  
FAX: 617-495-8819

LOEB HOUSE, 17 QUINCY STREET  
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

February 21, 2006

Dear Members of the Harvard Community,

With regret we have accepted the resignation of Lawrence H. Summers as president of Harvard University, effective at the end of the 2005-06 academic year.

Since his appointment five years ago, Larry Summers has served Harvard with extraordinary vision and vitality. He has brought to the leadership of the University a sense of bold aspiration and initiative, a prodigious intelligence, and an insistent devotion to maximizing Harvard's contributions to the realm of ideas and to the larger world. Through his tenure as president, Harvard has both invigorated its academic programs and engaged more keenly with the complex challenges facing society.

President Summers has spurred attention to the importance of providing our undergraduates with an education fully worthy of their exceptional talents. He has advanced the expansion of Harvard's international agenda and the pursuit of new intellectual frontiers, not just within individual Schools and departments but across them. He has led Harvard's outreach to students from families of modest means, while encouraging our graduates to embark on careers in the public interest. Through scores of outstanding new appointments he has worked to renew and build the faculty across the major academic domains and professions. Through intensive planning for Harvard's properties in Allston, as well as farsighted development of the University's existing precincts, he has helped us imagine the shape of things to come, especially at the leading edge of scientific discovery. He has done all this with remarkable energy and intellectual acuity, and Harvard's paths forward will long bear the imprint of his vision.

While this past year has been a difficult and sometimes wrenching one in the life of the University, we look back on the past five years with appreciation for all that has been accomplished and for the charting of a sound and ambitious forward course. We look ahead with confidence in the capacity of our faculty, students, staff, and alumni to embrace a future full of possibility and opportunity. Whatever our differences in perspective, and wherever we study or work within the University, all of us share a commitment to the progress of an institution whose aims are noble, whose traditions are strong, whose spirit is always restless, and whose promise – as embodied in the thousands of men and women who form the Harvard community – knows no bounds. To fulfill that promise, each of us owes it to our community as a whole to look forward in a spirit of common enterprise. President Summers has made clear to us his paramount desire to see the University concentrate its attention on the vital scholarly and educational agenda before us, and on the ordinary yet extraordinarily important daily work of teaching and learning. Let us do so, individually and together.

We are fortunate that Derek Bok, president of Harvard from 1971 through 1991, has agreed to our request that he serve as interim president of the University beginning this July 1 and continuing until the search for a new president concludes. We are fortunate as well that Steve Hyman, who as provost has brought great insight and vigor to some of the University's central challenges and opportunities, will carry forward in his vital role. Members of the Corporation

will stay in close touch with major developments across the University to assure the smoothest possible transition. There will be more to say soon about the search for a new president, which we intend to launch promptly, and about other pending matters that will require attention in the coming weeks and months.

For now, we want to express the gratitude of the University community to Larry Summers, for his vision, his leadership, and his service. We are pleased that, following a sabbatical in 2006-07, he plans to return to the faculty to resume his distinguished academic career, and with that prospect in view we intend to appoint him as one of Harvard's select group of University Professors once he concludes his time as president.

Finally, we want to thank each of you for all you do for Harvard. We will greatly appreciate your cooperative effort and thoughtful counsel in the time ahead.

Sincerely yours,

*The Fellows of Harvard College*

James R. Houghton

Nannerl O. Keohane

Robert D. Reischauer

James F. Rothenberg

Robert E. Rubin