**Dear Trustees,**

I will always be proud of my Suffolk BSBA degree and I was honored to be named a Trustee in 2012. It therefore pains me to have to tender my resignation, effective **April 15th, 2018**. Given my strong commitment to fairness and integrity, I am uncomfortable remaining after the total mismanagement of the selection process for our new President.

Let me be clear: my resignation is in no way a reflection on Dr. Kelly’s competence. However, our process was unnecessarily and inappropriately tainted … as evidenced by the fact that, despite our 17-month search, the Trustees were never given the chance even to meet with Dr. Leahy or Dr. Moo-Young.

Appointing Dr. Kelly in this way casts an inadvertent shadow on her reputation. This was not the way to end what the Boston Globe has called our “revolving door” presidency. In addition, based on the attached anonymous letter some of us received, the allegations give me great cause for concern.

Frankly, I believe the trustees owe it to themselves, to the faculty & administration and to our students & alumni to have an outside, independent investigation on how this search was handled.

In terms of my own integrity, however, that’s too little too late. I can only hope that Suffolk learns from this experience so that future selections never again compromise our reputation or the fairness Suffolk University must represent.

Sincerely,

**John McDonnell**