

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SCRANTON**  
A JESUIT UNIVERSITY

DEAN  
THE PANUSKA COLLEGE  
OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

TO: PCPS Dean's Conference  
FROM: Diane S. Muniz *DM*  
DATE: January 10, 2012  
SUBJECT: Summary of the November 29, 2011 Meeting

Attendance: Dr. L. Bruch, Dr. A. Chambers, Dr. D. DeMarzio, Dr. L. Eschbach, Dr. D. Fetherman, Mr. D. Hair, Dr. P. Harrington, Dr. S. Hudacek, Dr. P. Leininger, Ms. A. Mantione, Dr. M. Morgan, Ms. D. Posegate, Ms. E. Rozelle, Dr. J. Sanko, Mr. R. Schwenk, Dr. T. Smith, Dr. R. Spinelli, Dr. S. Szydlowski, Dr. W. Wallick, Dr. G. Wenzel  
Unable to Attend: Dr. A. Banner, Dr. P. Datti, Dr. R. Deitrich, Dr. R. Hakim, Dr. M. Hanson, Dr. V. Talarico, Dr. D. West, Dr. K. Wilkerson

The summary of the October 27, 2011 meeting was approved with one correction. The correction is as follows: "The Counseling and Human Services department received notification that the Board of the Council of Standards in Human Service Education has approved reaccreditation of the BS degree from October 2011 through October 2016."

#### **PCPS Honors Program**

Dr. Darryl DeMarzio reported on the findings of the Honors Program committee. The committee drafted a four-year undergraduate Honors Program for PCPS. The committee suggests piloting the program in the Fall of 2012, beginning with a first-year seminar. The focus of the Honors Program is service immersion beginning with a cohort of 18 students and culminating with a service/action-research project. Dr. DeMarzio was asked to address the selection of students into this program. Dr. DeMarzio explained that selected students (selection based on high school GPA, references, etc.) will be invited to apply to the Honors Program. The criteria for selection have not been determined at this time, but the focus will be on an essay which demonstrates a passion for service. It was agreed that for the initial program only freshmen students will be invited to apply.

**Freshman Seminar:** The Dean explained that the one-credit Freshman Seminar, as we currently know it, no longer exists and we need to begin the development of a three-credit first year seminar.

Several ideas were discussed, one being offering a three-credit course using an inter-disciplinary approach on subjects applicable to all PCPS majors, i.e. competency, wellness, cura personalis. This approach would also help in bringing students from all PCPS majors together at the beginning of their freshman year.

The Dean will extend an invitation to PCPS to brainstorm ideas for creating and implementing a program for PCPS.

Dr. Wenzel pointed out that because of the Freshman Seminar changes, all curriculum grids will need to be changed and all accrediting bodies will need to be notified about the changes. She questioned who will submit the forms to the FSCCB for revision? How it is going to play out if it is affecting all PCPS grids?

### **PCPS Professional Development Plan**

Members reviewed the Sophomore Year of the Plan. The theme for the sophomore year is discernment.

It was pointed out that the concept of discernment is based on the Ignatian notion of discernment dealing with the vocational aspect and tying it to the profession. It is not only spiritual development but reflection on whether the current major is the right fit for the individual. How does one evaluate whether a specific major is the right choice for them? We need to find activities that address that question.

The Dean mentioned that in the past four years, PCPS freshmen attended a seminar on the topic of *what it is to be a student in a Jesuit, Catholic University in the helping professions*. A suggestion was made to include in the Plan a list of retreats available to sophomore students. Other suggestions included: consider ways to incorporate discernment into service; consider wellness activities where the whole dimension of a person is considered; utilize department clubs and associations; utilize graduate students and alumni; connect a member of the PCPS Board of Visitors to a specific department; incorporate the Plan into requirements of the Honors Program.

Questions arose about Public Speaking and how to assure that specifics are being covered. A suggestion was made to move public speaking into both the junior and senior year of the Plan and to consult the Communications department on recommendations/expectations.

### **Announcements**

Ms. Mary Kay Aston and Mr. Joseph Roback will not be attending today's meeting. They will be invited to attend one of the meetings in the Spring semester.

Father Quinn will be invited to attend either the February or March meeting to speak about community based learning.

The Blessing of the Books takes place on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Lobby area of McGurrin Hall.

The spring newsletter will focus on internships, service learning, fieldwork, and clinicals. Everyone was reminded to take pictures of the students at the various sites for use in the upcoming newsletter. Members were reminded to include a caption for each photo submitted. The Dean distributed the "Photo Video Release" to be used when photos are taken.

PCPS Community Celebration is March 27, 2012. If anyone wishes to extend invitations to persons from your organizations/advisory boards, please do so. If you wish to have formal invitations sent please give the names and addresses to Diane Muniz.

The next freshman mandatory meeting for Professional Development is scheduled for Monday, April 23, 2012. The Dean encouraged all to extend an invitation to graduate students as well. The speaker will be Mr. David DeNotaris, Director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services.

Dr. Eschbach extended an invitation to the department's professional poster session being held today at 5:00 p.m. in Brennan Hall

c: Academic Deans  
Provost  
PCPS Faculty & Staff