

TO: Faculty Senate Report

FROM: Joseph H. Dreisbach, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: February 2, 2018

RE: Provost's Report for February

I. SPRING CONVOCATION:

The Spring Convocation was held on Thursday, February 1st. Fr. Keller offered his appreciation for the excellent work and commitment of the University faculty and staff. He provided some updates on admissions and on some of the pressures that face The University of Scranton and American Higher Education.

The four *Sursum Corda* awardees are: Ms. Margaret Hynosky, Associate Director of Financial Aid; Ms. Jennifer Pennington, Clerical Assistant in the Office of Equity and Diversity; Ms. Cathy Mascelli, Assistant Director for CHEW; and Mr. Tim Barrett, Supervisor of Electrical and Mechanical Trades.

II. ASSESSMENT UPDATE:

On January 26th a daylong workshop was offered by the Office of Educational Assessment and the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence. Participants examined best practices for incorporating portfolios and/or capstone work as a teaching strategy; identification of common competencies to be assessed across portfolios and/or capstone assignment in various disciplines and the development of rubrics for scoring and grading a portfolio and/or capstone assignment. Thank you to the faculty who found time to attend the workshop.

III. THE GONZAGA PROGRAM (FORMERLY ADP):

The Academic Development Program, which has been in existence for more than 35 years has been influential in leading to student success by helping students with reading, research and study skills, writing support, coordinated instruction, academic advising, tutoring, and mentoring.

In recent years the program has encountered resistance from many entering students, and their parents, who we believe would have greatly benefited from the opportunities offered in the program. Based on some of the feedback that was offered, a number of elements in the program were modified. The mandatory January course was made optional, a more structured component for spring was developed, and the program name was changed to remove the perception that this is purely a remedial program.

The revised ADP program, The Gonzaga Program, is structured as a cohort over the first 2 semesters with required courses in reading, research, and writing. As a cohort, Gonzaga Program students take two writing classes (WRTG 105 in the fall and WRTG 106 in the spring), a reading/research course (EDUC 113 in the fall), a First-Year Seminar (in the fall),

and a public speaking class (COMM 100 in the spring) to solidify their verbal and writing skills in preparation for increasingly more demanding classes in their major. These are the same courses as in the previous version of the program, though the requirement to take an Intersession course is eliminated. Instead, a free optional course during Intersession, either on-campus or online, is offered to all students in the program.

The program can accommodate 90 students a year, although in the last few years the number has been much less, around 60. Starting with the class entering in fall 2018, the Enrollment Management & External Affairs Division will attempt to place additional students in the program. The Gonzaga Program Director and academic advising centers will work with the Writing Placement Exam faculty to assure that the students most in need of support are placed in the Gonzaga Program after summer orientation, as spaces allow. The students already admitted in the program, plus the number of students to be added based on the Writing Placement Exam will total approximately 90 per year, and perhaps a few more.

The Gonzaga Program is named for Saint Aloysius de Gonzaga, S.J., Patron Saint of All Students. The Gonzaga Program proposal was presented to the CTLE Advisory Group in the spring and fall of 2017 and received positively. The proposal was also provided to the chair of the FSCC in November 2017.

IV. FACULTY SEARCHES:

Faculty searches continue into the spring semester. To date we have hired or sent contracts to five candidates.

V. RANK AND TENURE:

The Board on Rank and Tenure held formal meetings on January 5, 6 and 12th to review the applications of seventeen candidates. The President has received the recommendations from the Board on Rank and Tenure, the candidate's department, the deans, and the provost. When the President makes his decision Dr. Dreisbach will inform the Board and then the candidates.

VI. FULBRIGHT NOMINATIONS:

I am delighted to report that three of our six Fulbright candidates have been recommended as national semi-finalists for awards by the National Screening Committee.

Name	Application Field	Country	Major(s)
Lauren Coggins	Teaching ESL	Mexico	Sec. Ed-Spanish & Hispanic Studies
Cameron Hughes	Teaching ESL	Laos	Biology
Ling Yi	Public Health	China	Biology & Philosophy

Each country will now select the Fulbright recipients from the national semi-finalist list for that country. Final decisions will be made between March 1 and June 1.

This year there were over 10,000 applicants for approximately 1,500 awards nationwide, and on average, there are twice as many semi-finalists as grants available from each country.

I would like to thank Dr. Trussler and everyone who helped in the screening process.

VII. MEDICAL SCHOOL PLACEMENT:

Dr. Engel reports that to date, 29 students have received acceptances to 48 medical schools; 10 students have been accepted to 18 dental schools; 1 student have been accepted to 2 podiatry schools; 1 student has been accepted to 3 optometry schools.

VIII. CAREER DEVELOPMENT:

Listed below is data from the Career Services First Destination Survey of the 2017 Class – six months post-graduation.

Undergraduates

- 96% of the undergraduate class reported success in their career path.
- We were able to collect information from 89% of the undergraduate class (n=758/851).
- The mean salary for successful undergraduates was \$51,446 - above the national mean of \$51,022.
- 93% of our successful graduates indicated that they benefited from the services of the career center.

Graduates

- 98% of the graduate class reported success in their career path.
- We were able to collect information from 71% of the graduate class (n=416/582).
- The mean salary for successful graduates was \$72,124.

IX. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT:

Summer Grant Proposals/Clavius Funding:

A call for proposals for Clavius and Summer Grant funding were sent to faculty on February 1st and 2nd respectively. The deadline for submission is March 2, 2018

Provost Faculty Enhancement Awards:

A request for nominations for the Provost Enhancement Awards were sent out to Deans and Department Chairs on January 29th. The Provost Advisory Group will assist the Provost and Associate Provost in making the determination on the awards recipients. The awards will be presented at the Faculty Appreciation Day dinner scheduled for April 6th in The DeNaples Center's Ballroom.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Retention Committee:

The Retention Committee has recommended to the Strategic Enrollment Planning Team and the Provost's Council that the mid-semester grade alert in the Fall term be moved from week 8 to week 5 of the semester. The Provost's Council, including the deans, have fully endorsed this step. The proposal will be formally presented to the Faculty Senate later this month. The committee is also working on many other approaches (including academic advising, intentional contacts with targeted student populations, etc.) to enhance retention at the University.

Faculty Handbook Committee:

The Handbook Committee continues to work on:

- 5.4 General Responsibilities of Full-Time Faculty Members - regarding office hours.
- Appendix II: Norms for Evaluating Faculty for Rank and Tenure - regarding course evaluation summaries and faculty member's decision to exclude student comments

should not be construed as evidence of inadequate teaching at any stage of the rank and tenure process.

Subcommittees have been created:

- to address concerns with predatory journals. Dr. Li, Prof. Friedrichs, Dean Conniff and Dean Kratz make up the membership.
- to look at writing language addressing joint hires. Subcommittee members are Drs. Allison, Dzurec, Dreisbach and Ahuja.
- to address concerns about the scheduling of courses. Dr. Roberts Dzurec Dean Mensah and Pellegrino make up the membership.

PCAPC:

- The PCAPC has approved language that clearly states that at least ½ of the credits in a major, minor or concentration must be earned at the University. Exceptions to the policy may be made by the Dean of the College that sponsors the program.
- The PCAPC as approved a policy that will allow graduate students who are within 6 academic credits of fulfilling all graduation requirement to “walk” at the spring commencement ceremony. This is similar to the policy for undergraduate students.

The Policy proposals are being prepared to submit to the Faculty Senate Policy Committee.

XI. CURRICULUM:	Date Posted
New Course	
ENLT 137X: Race & Social Justice	10/11/17
CHS 110X: The Ignatian Imagination	10/12/17
CHS 327: Introduction to Professional School Counseling	10/17/17
OIM 251: Business Application for Excel	10/17/17
Program Changes	
Software Engineering, MS	10/11/17
OT Change to Cognate	10/12/17
Family Nurse Practitioner	10/12/17
Certificate in Enterprise Resource Planning	11/21/17
Changes to Enterprise Resource Planning	11/21/17
MBA-HCM Specialization	11/29/17
MBA-GMAT Requirement	12/13/17

XII. RANKINGS:

U.S. News & World Report's 2018 “Best Online Graduate Programs” ranked The University of Scranton’s online master’s degree programs in business (excluding MBA) at No. 83; education at No. 101 and MBA at No. 108 in the nation. This is the seventh consecutive year that *U.S. News* ranked the University’s online programs among the best in the nation. Scranton’s online business programs were among only three Jesuit colleges and 12 colleges in Pennsylvania ranked. Scranton’s online MBA program was among only four Jesuit colleges and 19 colleges in Pennsylvania ranked. Scranton’s online graduate program in education was among seven Jesuit universities and 19 colleges in Pennsylvania ranked by *U.S. News*.

In other rankings published by *U.S. News & World Report*, Scranton has been among the top 10 “Best Regional Universities in the North” for 24 consecutive years. Scranton is ranked No.

6 in the 2018 edition of the “Best Colleges” guidebook. *U.S. News* also ranked Scranton’s programs in finance at No. 17, accounting at No. 17 and entrepreneurship at No. 22 in the country. *U.S. News* also ranked Scranton No. 18 as a “Best Value Regional University in the North.”

Master’s Programs Guide, an online resource for graduate programs, ranked The University of Scranton’s online Master of Accountancy degree program No. 4 in the nation in its listing of the “50 Best Online Master of Accounting Degree Programs 2018.”

XIII. COLLEGE UPDATES:

College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Meghan Ashlin Rich, Associate Professor and Faculty Coordinator, Office of Community-Based Learning was elected Chair of the Community Research and Development Division of the Society for Study of Social Problems, a national activist-oriented professional association for sociologists.

Panuska College of Professional Studies

Dr. Julie Cerrito, assistant professor and director of the school of counseling program was recognized as School Counselor Educator of the Year by the Pennsylvania School Counselors Association (PSCA).

Weinberg Memorial Library

The Heritage Room will be hosting an exhibit titled "Distinguished for Their Talents" Theatrical Portraits by Scranton Master Penman P.W. Costello, 1905-1930 from February 5 through April 23. The exhibit, from the personal collection of Thomas Costello, will feature pen and ink portraits of late 19th and early 20th century actors, often as Shakespearean characters, many of whom played in Scranton theaters. P.W. Costello was a Scranton-based nationally known professional penman and engrosser (a field that we would now consider to be advertising and graphic art). He also owned a restaurant in Scranton’s theater district where he featured his theatrical portraits. The exhibit will have a reception and program on Tuesday, March 27 at 6 PM featuring a talk by Thomas Costello on Costello's career and Scranton's theatrical scene and a talk titled “Shakespeare on the Stage in 1900: From Actor’s Theater to Author’s Theater” by Prof. Michael Friedman.