

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D.  
Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: October 8, 2018

SUBJECT: Academic Affairs Report for October 2018

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### **1. Strategic Enrollment Plan Update**

The Strategic Enrollment Planning kickoff for the working groups was held on September 25<sup>th</sup>. This was the first time that we convened the five different working groups: Undergraduate programs, Graduate/other programs, Finance/financial aid, Student support, and Marketing/admissions. This was the second of eight visits that we will receive from our consultant, Lew Sanborne of Ruffalo Noel Levitz. The primary purpose of this visit was to launch the working groups and to begin the process of developing focus area situation analyses which will codify our understanding of the University of Scranton context, as well as its strengths, challenges, and opportunities. The working groups came together very quickly and were extremely productive.

We have scheduled visit three for Tuesday and Wednesday, November 13-14, 2018. During the first day of that visit, Lew will meet with each of the working groups to review first drafts of their situation analysis documents, to identify next steps to complete those documents, and, if appropriate, to begin the strategy ideation process. On day two, the SEP council will review progress to date and we will finalize next steps to complete situation analyses and transition to strategy ideation and development.

We have had two productive visits to launch strategic enrollment planning at the University of Scranton. Lew reports that he is impressed with the energy, focus, and good thinking all are bringing to our work. I am greatly appreciative to all involved in the process.

(portions of this section extracted from RNL report, L. Sanborne)

### **2. Update on Graduate Assistants for 2019-2020**

At the September Faculty Senate meeting I promised to provide an update on the Graduate Assistant selection process for 2019-2020. Sunil Ahuja, Associate Provost, is currently working with deans on this matter so that we can expedite the process. We will soon convey to the deans the amount of funding for each school/college for graduate assistants. Each dean will be asked to use the funds strategically and will have the flexibility to identify which positions in their school/college will have graduate assistants before the Thanksgiving break. We will then be able to recruit (or retain) for these positions in December 2018. I will continue to keep you updated on progress.

### **3. Dead Week**

In Spring 2018, Faculty Senate passed a resolution on the monitoring of “Dead Week”, which requested that the Provost investigate who has been authorized to give waivers for the Dead Week policy and how many have been granted.

While it is difficult for me to fully investigate this matter since I was not on campus at the time, I did find documentation that Dr. Dreisbach reached out to the Deans after the resolution was passed. Last week, I also contacted them verify their answers.

From these correspondences, I can report:

- (a) The Deans of each of the Schools have each maintained authorization to grant waivers within their College/School.
- (b) In the spring of 2018, only one waiver was granted. This waiver was granted in the College of Arts and Sciences.

I have asked the Deans to continue to monitor their courses and to let me know if they grant any future waivers or if they find out that faculty have violated this policy. I will continue to work with them to increase awareness of the Dead Week Policy and to emphasize the importance of this policy.

### **4. Rankings**

We have received additional national commendations in addition to the rankings I provided in the September report. *The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education* ranked The University of Scranton among “Top U.S. Colleges” in a 2019 listing that analyzes student outcomes after graduation, as well as their engagement while on campus to determine “how well a college will prepare students for life after graduation.”

Scranton’s highest rank was at No. 126 for student engagement, placing it in the top 15 percent of the ranking of nearly 1,000 colleges listed. Scranton also ranked at No. 182 for student outcomes; No. 260 for resources and No. 217 for an “overall” ranking based on analysis of 15 individual performance indicators.

### **5. Rank and Tenure:**

A public meeting to inform faculty of the rank and tenure policies and procedures was held on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Twenty faculty have applied for tenure and/or promotion for 2018-2019 reviews. Eleven faculty are applying for promotion to full professor, one for associate professor, three for tenure, and five for tenure and promotion to associate professor.

### **6. Curriculum:**

- In August the Deans, Associate Deans, CCC Chair, FSCC Chair, GE Chair and I met to discuss the curriculum process. At that meeting we decided to add the CCC forms and proposals to the FSCC Curriculum Board on D2L.

- In consultation with Dr. Marx, Dr. Spalletta, and Dr. Squire the following dates were sent to the faculty regarding the deadlines for submitting curriculum proposals. This year the CCC deadlines were included in the memo. The dates allow the reviewing bodies' sufficient time to review and approve curriculum proposals for the inclusion in the 2019-2020 catalogs.

All proposals **must be submitted to the CCC Chair (chair ccc@scranton.edu)** by the dates indicated below:

- Courses requesting GE attribute(s) for first offerings in Intersession/Spring 2019 August 31, 2018
- Courses requesting GE attribute(s) for first offerings in Summer/Fall 2019 February 1, 2019

All proposals **must be posted to the Faculty Senate Curriculum Board** by the dates indicated below:

- Deadline to post new program for the 2019-2020 Catalog. December 21, 2018
- Deadline to post major program changes for the 2019-2020 catalog February 15, 2019
- Deadline to post course changes for the 2019-2020 Catalog. February 22, 2019
- Deadline for catalog curricular contributors to send 2019-2020 catalog changes to their Deans. March 15, 2019
- Deadline to submit small editorial changes to the 2019-2020 Catalog. March 29, 2019

The following curriculum proposals have been approved by the Provost.

<b>Program Change</b>	<b>Date Posted</b>
Electrical Engineering	4/26/18
PT Internship I	4/12/18
PT Internship II	4/12/18
 <b>Course Change</b>	
EE 243L: Digital Systems Lab	4/26/18

## 7. Committee Update

The PCAPC has approved language to be included in the Part-Time Faculty Handbook.

*The Application of Academic Freedom for Part-Time Faculty:*

Pursuant to its statement of dedication to the freedom of inquiry, the University subscribes to the 1940 and 1970 statements and interpretive comments on academic freedom of the Association of American University Professors, which declare that “the common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition.”

Part-time faculty members are entitled to academic freedom in their assigned duties. This is not, however, a license to introduce controversial material which has no relation to the subject being taught. Although every faculty member should respect the stated aims of the institution to which he or she accepts an appointment, academic freedom protects the right to express, clarify, and interpret positions, including those identified as personal positions of the teacher, which may be divergent from those of the institution.

## **8. College Updates**

### *Panuska College of Professional Studies*

The leadership of AllOne and The University of Scranton announced a major, regional initiative to enhance the delivery of services for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The Autism Collaborative Centers of Excellence (ACCE) was formed to deliver a full array of services and supports for individuals with (ASD), from early intervention to adult services. The University will serve as the executive hub of the five-family friendly centers.

ACCE is supported by AllOne Foundation, The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Margaret Briggs Foundation, Northeast PA Health Care Foundation, Highmark Foundation, Geisinger Foundation and Moses Taylor Foundation. This multi-year, multi-million dollar commitment represents the largest private philanthropic investment in a single health issue in Northeastern and North Central Pennsylvania.

### *Weinberg Memorial Library*

#### Zaner-Bloser Penmanship Exhibit and Lecture

The Weinberg Library Heritage Room will host an exhibit on the career of Charles Paxton Zaner, penman extraordinaire and founder of the Zaner-Bloser Penmanship Co. The Weinberg Memorial Library has been the home of the Zaner-Bloser Collection since 2010, and the collection has been used in a number of exhibits. 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of C. P. Zaner's tragic death in an automobile collision with a train at the age of 54. The exhibit will focus on Zaner's career and feature calligraphic alphabets, flourished birds, other artistic work and penmanship exercises. The exhibit will also display manuscript copies of his essays, copies of manuals he authored, accompanied at times by the original penwork and printing blocks, and material from the company he created. The exhibit, titled "The World's Best Penman: The Artistic and Business Career of Charles Paxton Zaner, 1864-1918," will be on display until December 14 during normal library hours. There will be a reception and lecture, by Special Collections Librarian Michael Knies, on Zaner's career and the profession of penmanship during his lifetime on Wednesday, October 24, at 6 PM in the Heritage Room. Knies will also speak on The golden Age of American Penmanship at a Faculty Research Seminar on October 19 in Brennan 509.

### *Kania School of Management*

Update on KSOM Dean Search: Faculty representatives to the search committee have been chosen. Nabil Tamimi and Daniel Mahoney will serve as KSOM faculty

representatives, and Iordanis Petsas will serve as the At-Large faculty representative. The remainder of the search committee is being finalized and will be announced to the campus shortly. We have hired a search firm, Academic Search, to ensure that we have the largest pool of potential applicants. The position description will be finalized and distributed for applicants by the end of October. We hope to have finalists on campus at the beginning of the spring semester.

*College of Arts and Sciences*

As announced by Fr. Pilarz at his Presidential Inauguration ceremony, the University has received a one million dollar gift to establish a Center for Humanities at The University of Scranton. Fr. Pilarz, Dean Conniff and I have met with the faculty leaders of the current Humanities Initiative to provide updates on current initiatives and to begin planning for the vision and strategy of the new Center.