



September 1, 2020

Subject: First Steps in the Search for the 28th President of The University of Scranton

Dear Members of The University of Scranton Community,

Faculty, staff, and students at colleges and universities across the United States are feeling a complex range of emotions as we open another academic year. On the one hand, it is wonderful to return to the campuses that emptied so abruptly last spring. Yet our excitement is tempered, both by the short-term adjustments we have made to keep our campuses safe, and by concerns about the long-term impact of the pandemic on American higher education.

For those of us in the Scranton community, of course, Father Pilarz' announcement that he will step down as President of the University in May 2021 has accentuated our sadness. And yet this news has also inspired deep gratitude, not only for Father Pilarz' visionary leadership, perhaps most especially throughout the COVID crisis, but also for all that he continues to teach us. He models for all of us Ignatian discernment and the Jesuit commitment to finding God in all things.

This is not a moment of joy for us as a community, but it is undoubtedly a moment of hope—and a moment when we are called to do our best to find a worthy successor to Father Pilarz. I am honored to have been asked to chair the Search Committee for the next President of The University of Scranton. As we prepare for a presidential transition, my fellow trustees and I are committed to overseeing a process that is as comprehensive, inclusive, and transparent as possible. To that end, we have launched a [presidential search website](#) where you will find up-to-date information about the search throughout the process. I will also send periodic briefings to the University community via email, and those messages will subsequently be made available on the search website.

Finding the best candidate depends on the input of the entire Scranton community. To that end, we will initiate the search with a series of virtual listening sessions for students, faculty and staff. We anticipate that these conversations will generate rich discussion about the University's culture, challenges, strengths, and priorities, and we hope that together we can establish the criteria we will use to recruit our next leader.

Students, faculty and staff will receive invitations to these listening sessions, which will take place between September 8 and 11. We will also be distributing a survey to all members of the University community to provide an alternative or complementary opportunity to contribute to the search process. I thank you in advance for your thoughtful participation, and for all you do for our beloved University.

Warmest regards,

Kathleen Sprows Cummings, Ph.D. '93, G'93  
Chair, Presidential Search Committee