

TO: Faculty Senate Report

FROM: Jeff Gingerich
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: May 1, 2020

RE: Provost's Report for May

Thank You to Marian

I want to begin this month's Provost Report by thanking Dr. Marian Farrell for her service as Faculty Senate President over the past two years. Since her term of service also coincided with my first two years at the University, I am especially grateful to Marian for helping to bring me on board and for her collaboration on many important matters pertaining to academics and faculty at Scranton. As you know well, Marian is a tireless advocate for faculty and for shared governance. She has led us through some crucial initiatives in that spirit. I feel privileged to have worked with her over the past couple of years. Please join me in thanking her for her extraordinary service.

Covid 19 Update

- **Spring Semester:** A revised policy for undergraduate "credit satisfactory/credit deficiency/no credit (CS/CD/NC)" and graduate "satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U)" grading was put into place for the spring semester only. Academic departments determined which courses or programs were eligible or ineligible, taking into consideration accreditation or other important academic concerns. Students can apply for "credit satisfactory/credit deficiency/no credit" grading on eligible courses beginning April 9 through midnight on May 1. I have further discussed the options for extending this option for Summer classes and this will be discussed at Faculty Senate in May.
- **Summer Classes:** As you know, we decided that all summer classes will also be delivered through remote education. Fortunately, many undergraduate and graduate summer classes are already online. We will continue to provide as much support as possible to those faculty who may be transitioning a course to an online format through the dean's offices, CTLE, IT, Library and other crucial support services.
- **Clinical Placements:** One of the most difficult challenges for students has been the discontinuation of clinical placements in the health science disciplines. Most clinical sites communicated to us early on that students were not allowed to continue and we subsequently pulled all students for their health and safety. We are currently planning for their eventual return with appropriate safety and legal considerations. Dean Pellegrino has done an extraordinary job leading these discussions. Ensuring that students finish their clinical placements will be one of the most difficult tasks as we look to the future.
- **Commencement:** Fr. Pilarz announced that we must postpone our previously-scheduled May 30-31 commencement ceremonies until the weekend of October 24- 25. Our preliminary plans include hosting Baccalaureate Mass and a truly epic Commencement Party on campus on Saturday, October 24, and conducting a combined Undergraduate and Graduate Commencement Ceremony at the Mohegan Sun Arena on Sunday, October 25. I

am convening a campus group to discuss how best to help our seniors virtually celebrate on May 30-31 while still inviting them back to the October events.

- **Registration:** Online course registration has proceeded as scheduled. Students consulted with their academic advisors virtually and the Registrar's Office played a critical role in successfully registering most students for the summer and fall terms. Thank you to all of the faculty advisors who worked closely online with your students over the past few weeks.
- **Fall Semester planning:** As we look ahead, the University is making plans for a return to campus this fall. At this point we plan to return with face-to-face classes, but realize that we must closely monitor the trend data for the virus and look to governor's orders. Similar to other schools, we are preparing contingency plans should the pandemic once again disrupt campus-based operations. We have convened a campus group to consider alternatives, learning from our experience this spring, so that we can be prepared should we have to make the difficult decision to alter our plan. We will collaborate with the faculty group that was developed by Faculty Senate and FAC.

Curriculum software purchase – response to motion

At the December 2020 Faculty Senate meeting a motion was passed that “*recommended that the University of Scranton consider purchasing a curriculum management system such as CURRICULOG in order to facilitate the curriculum review process and catalog changes.*”

I want to provide an update and response to this motion.

I will commit to continuing to review the options for purchasing a curriculum management system in the Fall 2020 semester. Because of the ongoing financial concerns created by the COVID-19 virus and the university's response to the virus, we are holding on many of these kind of financial purchases until we have a better understanding of the financial impact to the university. I do appreciate the Faculty Senate's attention to finding a transparent process for curriculum approval that facilitates better communication. I will continue this discussion in the fall semester.

Search for Library Dean

We continue to move forward the search for a Library Dean. Susan Bowen has graciously agreed to chair the search committee. Committee members have been chosen to represent the faculty, staff, students and administration. We are currently finalizing the position description and timeline for the search. We hope to fill this position by January 2021.

CAS Interim Dean

I am pleased to announce that Harry Dammer, Ph.D., associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences, has agreed to serve as interim dean of the college for the month of June 2020. Brian Conniff, Ph.D., who served for nine years as the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will be stepping down from this position at the end of the 2019/2020 academic year on May 31. Michelle Gonzalez Maldonado, Ph.D., will begin as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences on July 1, 2020. I am grateful to Harry for agreeing to serve in this important role during this crucial transition for CAS.

Slattery Center for Humanities Faculty Fellows, 2020-2021

The Gail and Francis Slattery Center for Humanities is excited to announce faculty fellowships for the academic year 2020-21. At the core of the Center's activities will be a bi-weekly

Humanities workshop in which faculty and student fellows will present their work to other fellows and guests of the Center for feedback and discussion. The selection of faculty fellows was based on the scholarly and/or artistic excellence of the proposed project, the scholarly or artistic credentials and/or promise of the faculty member, the ability of the faculty member to contribute to the life of the center, and the degree to which the faculty member will benefit from the fellowship and the resources it provides. The fellowship awardees are:

- George Aulisio, Associate Professor, Weinberg Memorial Library
- Colleen Farry, Assistant Professor, Weinberg Memorial Library
- Roy Domenico, Professor, History
- Charles Pinches, Professor, Theology/Religious Studies
- Aiala Levy, Assistant Professor, History
- Cyrus Olsen, Associate Professor, Theology/Religious Studies
- Christopher Gillett, Assistant Professor, History
- Ann Pang-White, Professor, Philosophy

Provost Enhancement Awards

While I am sorry that we could not announce and celebrate together the important Provost Enhancement Awards this spring, I am very pleased to congratulate the following faculty members for their outstanding contributions to The University of Scranton in these key areas:

- Prof. Tara Fay – Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
- Dr. Nabil Tamimi – Excellence in Scholarly Publication
- Dr. Iordanis Petsas and Professor Narda Tafuri – Excellence for University Service and Leadership
- Dr. Jean Harris – Excellence in Integrating Mission and Justice into the Curriculum
- Dr. Gretchen Van Dyke – Excellence in Advancing Global Learning
- Dr. Stephen Whittaker – Excellence in Adapting Classic Principles of Jesuit Pedagogy into the Curriculum: Magis Award
- Dr. Jason Graham and Dr. Margarete Zalon – Excellence in Advancing Interdisciplinary Study

Faculty Development Grants

The Faculty Development Grants for the summer are intended to promote efforts by full-time faculty members in scholarship or curriculum development. The following faculty have been award grants for Summer 2020.

- Dr. Michael Azar: *The Role of Scripture in Jewish-Christian Dialogue: An Orthodox Perspective*
- Dr. John Deak: *Measuring Reorganization Within and Organized Molecular Interface Using Microscopic Volume Changes*
- Dr. Josephine Dunn: *Hidden Histories: Women Making History in Northeastern Pennsylvania*
- Prof. Colleen Farry: *Iterative Experimentation with Crowdsourcing Technologies*
- Dr. Matthew Meyer: *Nietzsche's "Thus Spoke Zarathustra"*
- Dr. Stacy Smulowitz: *Leading Change in Higher Education*

- Dr. Patricia Moyle Wright: *Older Parent's Experiences of Losing an Adult Child*
- Dr. El-Habib Zanzana: *The Representation of Disability in World Literature and Cinema: A Socio-economic and Healthcare Perspective*

Clavius Fund

The Clavius Fund is designed to promote interdisciplinary engagement and to foster a greater sense of collegiality across departmental lines by creating settings whereby diverse faculty can explore a topic of mutual interest from divergent perspectives. The following projects were awarded Clavius Funds for 2020-2021:

- Professors Kelly Banyas, Marleen Cloutier and Colleen Farry: *Open Revolution*
- Dr. Charles Pinches and Dr. Joel Kemp: *Hungering for the Library Arts: Historical African-American Perspectives*

Curriculum Update

New Course

	Date Posted
COUN 558: School Counseling Comp Programming II	1/24/20
CJ 311L: GIS for Public Safety Lab	4/15/20
CJ 235: Cyber Law and Policy	4/15/20
CYBR 260: Introduction to Network Security	4/15/20
CYBR 320: Digital Forensic Investigation	4/15/20
CHED 300: Career Seminar in Health Promotion	2/5/20
T/RS 237: Bible and Law	2/21/20

Course Change

HINF 530: Healthcare Knowledge for Health Informatics	2/14/20
HINF 535: Principles of Computer Science & Software Development	2/14/20
OT 494: Evidence Based Research	2/18/20

Program Change

Exercise Science/Kinesiology	10/24/20
Community Health Education	4/14/20
MS Health Informatics	1/24/20
Applied Sociology Minor	2/21/20
Sociology Minor	2/21/20