

TO: Faculty Senate Report

FROM: Patricia Harrington, R.N., Ed.D.
Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: February 11, 2014

RE: Provost's Report for February 14, 2014

I. SPRING CONVOCATION:

At Spring Convocation last week Fr. Quinn acknowledged and thank those that have agreed to serve in interim positions including myself, Patti Tetreault, Interim Vice President for Human Resources, Anitra McShea, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Ms. Robyn Dickinson, Interim Vice President for Planning/CIO.

Fr. Quinn touched on the following points:

- Provost Search Committee is well under way and he is hopeful that it will successfully conclude in the coming months
- In the other divisional cases, Fr. is taking the opportunity to carefully consider how best to proceed
- Fr. thanked the faculty union, faculty and academic leaders for moving so quickly and seriously to the Middle State's warning
- Fr. has called together members of the Faculty Senate, faculty union, and senior administrators to begin the conversation on shared governance and to reach a deeper understanding of the roles and responsibilities of faculty and administration
- The new challenge to higher education is willingness to pay. The essential need to limit tuition increases and the implications of our smaller class are putting tremendous pressure on our budget.
- We are confident that we can present a balanced and strategic budget to the Board of Trustees for approval, but it is not without sacrifice and painful decisions. We remain committed to a combination of strategic enrollment and strategic financial reviews to ensure that our educational offerings remain in high demand.
- Applications are near record levels and visits to campus by high school seniors are at an all-time high. He asked that all members of the University community to continue to support our efforts and welcome all our guests.

II. FACULTY SEARCHES:

We are conducting twelve faculty searches; as of this date two have been successfully concluded.

III. RANK AND TENURE:

The Board of Rank and Tenure held formal meetings on January 9, 10, 16 and 17th to review application of twenty-four candidates. The President received the recommendations from the Board of Rank and Tenure, the candidate's department, the deans and the Provost/VPAA and

has made his decisions. Drs. Baillie and Harrington met with the candidates to inform them of the decisions on February 6th and 7th. Candidates have 30 days to appeal their decision.

IV. **FULBRIGHT NOMINATIONS:**

I am delighted to report that five of our nine Fulbright candidates have been recommended as national finalists for awards by the National Screening Committee. IIE in New York, who administer the Fulbrights, report that there were over 10,000 applicants this year for the approximately 1,900 awards nationwide.

Since a recommendation as a finalist is not assurance of an award, IIE in New York asks that we not release the students' names until the final outcome of their applications has been decided by the countries involved.

V. **FACULTY DEVELOPMENT:**

Grant Proposals/Clavius Funding:

Calls for proposals for Clavius Funding and Summer Grant Application were sent out to faculty on February 3rd.

Provost Faculty Enhancement Awards:

Request for nominations for the Provost Faculty Enhancement Awards were sent out to the Deans and Department Chairs on February 4th. The Provost Advisory Group will assist the Provost and Associate Provost in making the final determination on the awards recipients. The awards will be presented at the Faculty Appreciation Day dinner scheduled for April 4th from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in The DeNaples Center's Ballroom

VI. **UPDATED SABBATICAL LIST:**

The following sabbaticals have been approved for the 2014-2015 Academic Year. The names bolded are new since the last report.

Fall 2014

Cyrus Olsen
Masood Otarod
Krzysztof Plotka
Carl Schaffer

Eric Plumer

Academic Year 2014-2014

Patricia Harrington
Janice Voltzow

Spring 2015

Bryan Burnham
Darryl DeMarzio
David Dzurec
Riaz Hussain
Nathan Lefler

Intersession 2015 & Summer 2015

Kristen Yarmey

Fall 2014 (Pre-Tenure)

Andrew LaZella

VII. **THE COLLEGES:**

The Panuska College of Professional Studies

- Dean Pellegrino will be attending the 66th American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Annual Meeting in Indianapolis later this month.

College of Arts and Sciences

- Area high school students participated in the 15th Annual Northeast PA Brain Bee sponsored by the Neuroscience Program at the University earlier this month. The Brain Bee encourages high school students to study the brain and how it relates to intelligence, memory, emotions, sensations, movements, stress, aging, sleep and brain

disorders. The winner of the Bee is invited to participate in the National Brain Bee held in Baltimore, MD. The winner of the 2012 Northeast PA competition went on to win the national competition that year.

- The fourth annual Conference on Aging will take place on our campus April 10. Conference “tracks” have been organized by the College (spiritual), Geisinger Health Systems (medical), and Allied Services (restorative). Keynote speakers are Steven Strongwater, Chief Transformational Officer for Geisinger Health Systems and Harold Koenig, Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology, and Health at Duke University.
- In 2015 and 2016, the College will host Energy Path, the region’s largest conference on sustainable energy, with over 600 industry professionals, policy makers, and scholars.

Kania School of Management

- The University of Scranton accounting students and a group of local human service organizations led by the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties will offer low and moderate income individuals and families free assistance in completing and filing their federal, state and local tax returns through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Last year our students helped in preparing more than 1,000 tax returns.

College of Graduate and Continuing Education

- The University of Scranton’s online graduate program in education ranked No. 9 in the nation, and its online MBA program ranked No. 51, according to *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2014 Best Online Education Programs. The lists, published Jan. 7, ranked online programs offered by nonprofit and for-profit institutions in the United States in categories of business, education, engineering, nursing and computer information technology.

Our online graduate program in education has the highest rank of the 14 Pennsylvania colleges, and the eight Jesuit universities listed by *U.S. News*. Scranton’s online graduate program in business tied with St. Joseph’s University for the highest rank among the six Jesuit colleges listed, and was among just 12 colleges in Pennsylvania listed.

- The U.S. News Short List, is a regular series, separate from their overall rankings, magnifies individual data points in hopes of providing students and parents a way to find which undergraduate or graduate programs excel or have room to grow in specific areas has ranked The University of Scranton’s MBA Program in the top ten schools with the highest salary-to-debt ratio. On average, 2012 graduates of the school made more than four times the average debt, which was \$18,303.

VIII. CURRICULUM APPROVALS:

New Course:	Date Posted
Math 479: The Art of Problem Solving	11/5/13
New Program:	
Entrepreneurship Major	11/5/13
B.A. in Mathematics	9/24/13

Program Change:
Biology Minor

9/5/13

IX. INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

Campus Internationalization Committee: A committee of faculty, staff and administration is being convened in spring 2014 (first meeting scheduled for 17 Feb 2014) to study and discuss, in the broadest terms, the concept of internationalizing the University. Faculty representatives on this committee are Drs. Linda Ledford Miller, Susan Trussler, Ann Pang-White, and Daniel West.

International Student and Scholar Services

The University is hosting 18 new international exchange students in spring 2014. These students are from Mexico (1), South Korea (8), Spain (2), Taiwan (3) and Sweden (4). There are 18 new degree-seeking international students from Saudi Arabia (17) and China (1).

Study Abroad

53 University students are studying abroad in 10 different countries during spring 2014 (Australia 12; D Spain 11; Italy 9; United Kingdom 6; Denmark 5; South Africa 3; France 2; Ireland 2; South Korea 1; Taiwan 1; Japan 1).

X. OFFICE OF RESEARCH SERVICES and SPONSORED PROGRAMS:

ORSP reports that there are 35 extramural grant proposals submitted since 1 June 2013 through 22 Jan 2014) and there are 6 patent applications that are currently active. Two marketing studies involving intellectual property generated through faculty research are underway.

XI. SENIOR FELLOW, INTERNATIONAL, CULTURAL, AND CIVIC PROJECTS:

Through the Schemel Forum at The University of Scranton during the spring semester, local residents can examine World War I, generations of Jewish-American writers and American “enlightened self-interest.” University of Scranton professors will teach these evening courses in six sessions, all on campus.

Sean Brennan, Ph.D., assistant professor of history at The University of Scranton, and David Wenzel, former mayor of Scranton and community leader, will co-teach a course titled “World War 1: The Watershed Event of the Twentieth Century.” Each class will be based on a theme and will feature a screening of the acclaimed 1963 CBS documentary “World War I: The Complete Story,” followed by a discussion.

Joseph Kraus, Ph.D., associate professor of English and Theatre and director of the University’s Honors Program, will conduct a class titled “Jewish-American Short Stories.” Looking back at least to the 1940s, Dr. Kraus asserts that Jewish-American writers have used the short story form to negotiate how they sit on both sides of the hyphen as Jews and Americans. “Reading three or four representative short stories for each class, we will examine this phenomenon from both a chronological and a theme-based approach,” said Dr. Kraus

During “Enlightened Self-Interest Examined,” Matthew Meyer, Ph.D., assistant professor of philosophy at The University of Scranton, will focus on whether the connection between self-interest and the common good is rightly understood in America today. On his historic visit to America in the early 19th century, Alexis de Tocqueville noted that Americans eagerly linked the pursuit of self-interest to the common good and saw it as a civic responsibility to cultivate the connection. Tocqueville called it “self-interest rightly understood” or enlightened self-interest; through the reading the class will explore the idea that “although self-interest and private acquisition (even greed) has contributed to the common good through economic

development, their effect may ultimately be destructive. Instead of forging progress and improving our quality of life, self-interest can sometimes drive individuals and corporations alike to try to manipulate laws for private benefit, thus leading to a system of 'legalized' cheating for the benefit of the few, while widening the gap between the haves and have-nots."

XII. PERFORMANCE MUSIC

February 15, 2014, 7:30 pm

"In Concert"

The University of Scranton Jazz Band with guest soloist Jumaane Smith
(brass masterclass at 11:30 a.m., pre-registration requested for masterclass)

February 23, 2014, 7:30 pm

"6th Annual Gene Yevich Memorial Concert" featuring The New York Trumpet Ensemble,
Mark Gould, Director

March 5, 2014, 7:30 pm

"In Recital" featuring University of Scranton Performance Music students (with a guest
appearance by The North Pocono Steel Drum Project)

March 8, 2014, 7:30 pm

"Heads Up!"

Steve Fidyk and Friends
(percussion masterclass at 2:00 p.m., pre-registration requested for masterclass)

March 27, 2014, 7:00 pm

"Ukelele Band on the Run!"

"The Ukes of S" make a guest appearance with the North Pocono H.S. Steel Drum Project,
Frank Torquato, Director
(this event takes place at North Pocono High School Auditorium, admission is free)

March 28, 2014, 7:30 pm

"In Recital" David Ball, organist

April 6, 2014, 7:30 pm

"In Concert" Combined concert featuring The Manhattan School of Music Brass Orchestra and
The University of Scranton Singers

April 25, 2014, 7:30 pm

"In Concert" The University of Scranton String Orchestra

May 3, 2014, 7:30 pm

"31st Annual World Premiere Composition Series Concert" featuring two new works by
composer/conductor Kyle Athayde, performed by The University of Scranton Concert Band &
Concert Choir

May 9, 2014, 7:30 pm

"In Concert" The University of Scranton Jazz Band

May 16, 2014, 7:30 pm

"Pre-Commencement Concert" The University of Scranton Symphonic Band and Singers