

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Donald R. Boomgaarden, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: December 5, 2014

SUBJECT: Provost Report

I. Strategic Planning Process: Overview:

The University's current strategic plan is due to expire in 2015, and the development of a new plan for 2015-2020 has begun. This new plan follows the President's endorsement of an approach that begins with the development of a vision statement and strategic themes at the Cabinet level, with further refinement and goal development occurring through the University Planning Committee (UPC). The development of initial themes and corresponding strategies was informed by environmental scanning and analysis that has been occurring within the Cabinet, University Planning Committee, and Board of Trustees over the past year. The goal for the remainder of this year is to create a draft plan which can be submitted to the Board of Trustees for their approval in the May 2015 meeting.

Proposed Draft Plan Themes and Strategies

1. *Engaged* – how does “engagement” enhance the student experience, transformation?

- Learning through social contribution: service and service learning;
- Learning through academic experiential opportunities that promote immersion and reflection: mentoring, internships, placements;
- Learning through collaborative residential, social, and co-curricular experiences: living-learning communities, student leadership programs, athletics;
- Learning that engages students throughout the full span of their educational experience, from freshman year to graduation: recruitment, retention, meeting student's individual needs and multiple pathways, affordability, access.

2. *Integrated* – how does “integration” enhance the student experience, transformation?

- Learning that directly engages and is informed by the University's Jesuit mission, engaging in programs that explore Jesuit identity and the Catholic intellectual tradition;
- Learning grounded in the fundamental elements of a liberal arts education, through general education;

- Learning facilitated by cohesive academic support services, advising... “transformative pedagogies”, learning technologies;
 - Learning that occurs with, not only from, faculty, who...engage rigorously in their disciplines...expanded research opportunities.... Collaborative scholarship, creative pedagogy, intellectual environment;
 - Learning that is interdisciplinary...responsive program development... signature programs;
 - Learning that is holistically assessed – assessment at the course, program, college, and University levels. Reflection is an integral ingredient in our student learning & assessment practices.
3. **Global** – how does “global” understanding and involvement enhance the student experience, transformation?
- Learning with and from those in marginalized communities, in the spirit of social justice;
 - Learning opportunities that are diverse, informed by increased and inclusive diversity on our campus, and more robust multicultural experiences and dialogue;
 - Learning opportunities that engage students with other parts of the world, through international study, and on-campus study and awareness of global issues;
 - Learning that requires students to think and reason locally, regionally, nationally, internationally, and globally.

University Planning Committee

The UPC will serve in a special capacity as the University’s Strategic Plan Steering Committee. To help accomplish this work, three subcommittees of the UPC have been formed, each focusing on one of the three working themes of the draft strategic plan: *engaged*, *integrated*, and *global*. Each subcommittee is charged with reviewing and proposing refinements to the broad goals of each theme, including the development of “vision” statements for each thematic area; making recommendations for additional or modified content to these goals; making recommendations for any support plan(s) needed to support the achievement of the theme/goals; and identifying meaningful, appropriate means of measuring success. They will be reporting back to the larger committee in the first week of February with the results of their work. In addition to the work of these subcommittees, throughout 2014-2015:

- Ed Steinmetz, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration will meet regularly with the committee to assist in defining parameters of resource needs and expectations, and to link the strategic planning process to the results of the deliberations of the Comprehensive Resource Review Committee.
- Gary Olsen, Vice President for University Advancement will meet regularly with the committee to assist in linking the strategic plan to the goals of the Comprehensive Campaign, currently being developed.

- Pat Harrington, Interim Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness is charged with ensuring the alignment and interrelationship of the University’s strategic plan, and the Institutional Effectiveness Plan, with the University’s Student Learning Assessment Plan and related plans and processes, including assessment plans for General Education.
- Kate Yerkes, Assistant Vice President for Planning & Institutional Effectiveness and the Director of Institutional Research are tasked with (1) supporting the work of each subcommittee, as needed; and (2) the development of a formal Institutional Effectiveness Plan for measuring and reporting the progress of the strategic plan, along with other institutional goals.

II. Middle States Update:

At its session on November 20, 2014, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted to accept the University’s monitoring report and to note the visit by the Commissions’ representatives. The Commission also voted to remove the warning status placed on the University in 2013, and noted that the University is now in compliance with Standard 14 (Assessment of Student Learning). The next monitoring report will be due on April 1, 2016, and must document further implementation of an organized and sustained assessment process for all programs, including general education, with evidence that results are used to improve teaching and learning. The next full evaluation visit is scheduled for 2018-19.

III. Searches:

Faculty

A combined add was placed in the October 24th edition of the Chronicle of Higher Education announcing 19 tenure track openings in 15 departments.

Executive Director for Campus Ministries

The Search Committee continues to review candidates and work with Human Resources on expanding the marketing of the position.

Director of Career Services

The Search Committee arranged for 3 finalists to participate in a comprehensive on campus interview process expected to conclude by the end of the fall semester.

IV. Sabbaticals:

The Office Research Sponsored Programs reviewed sabbatical applications from 25 tenured faculty during November 20th meeting. 7 applications are for fall 2015, 8 for spring 2016, and there are 10 applications for the 2015-16 academic year. Twenty-one sabbaticals were approved and 4 applications are under review.

V. College Updates:

College of Arts and Sciences

- Dr. Kwiecinski, Biology, Dr. Allison, Dr. Harris, and Dr. Jenkins, Political Science will be featured on “The Academic Minute,” a daily broadcast by

Albany's WAMC public radio station and featured by *Inside Higher Ed*. The segments, hosted by Lynn Pasquerella, Ph.D., president of Mount Holyoke College, feature a different professor each day discussing research and include experts from top research institutions from across the county.

- Loyola Science Center has met the "Gold" standard from Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. It is the University's first Gold building.

Kania School of Management

- The Princeton Review has named The University of Scranton's Kania School of Management among the nation's "Best Business Schools" for 10 consecutive years. The 2015 edition of "The Best 296 Business Schools" includes Scranton among the list of elite colleges and touts its Jesuit influence for adding "an element of social responsibility" to its courses.

The guidebook noted KSOM's "outstanding professors who take pride in teaching" and bring real-world experience into the classroom. It also mentioned the University's Irwin E. Alperin Financial Center with its simulated trading floor where students "learn via market simulations," as well as the University's accreditation by AACSB.

- KSOM is hosting a student stock trading competition utilizing a real-world stock trading platform and simulated brokerage accounts. This competition honors the memory of James C. Doyle '66, loyal alumnus of the University and respected financial advisor. The competition is open to all KSOM students. The student with the highest portfolio value at 4:00 p.m. on April 15, 2015, will receive a \$500.00 cash award.
- Brian Carpenter, Ph.D., and Douglas M. Boyle, D.B.A., received the Institute of Management Accountants' Lybrand Bronze Medal for their manuscript "New Rules for Lessee Accounting: A Summary of the Lessee Provisions of Accounting Standards Update." Co-author Daniel Mahoney, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Accounting Department at the University, who is not an IMA member, received a Certificate of Appreciation.

Panuska College of Professional Studies

- The agreement with Geisinger Resident Physician training and education in medical and osteopathic manipulative treatment with Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Geisinger Medical Center and the Leahy Clinic has been executed.
- Our student pass rate for Human Services-Board Certified Practitioner Exam is 100%. The School of Counseling pass rates for ETS/Praxis II exams for the last two years is 100%. The PA State Board of Nursing pass rates is 92.77%. This includes our transfer students from Marywood.

- Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D., president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Archbishop of Louisville, Kentucky, was the keynote luncheon speaker at the 13th Annual U.S. Conference on disAbility hosted by the Panuska College of Professional Studies.

Graduate School and Continuing Education

- Online enrollment numbers are:

Online Program Student Headcount	Fall 2013 A	Fall 2013 A & B	Spring 2014 A	Spring 2014 A & B	Fall 2014 A	Fall 2014 A & B
Business	370	431	386	440	339	405
ERP Certificate	2	4	4	5	5	5
Supply Chain Mgmt. Certificate	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	318	410	329	424	290	396
Human Resources	134	156	140	163	106	126
Health Admin	0	0	0	0	11	14
Accountancy	0	0	0	0	0	1
Self-Improvement	2	5	2	5	1	2
Transfer-Credit	19	30	27	33	23	31
TOTAL	845	1036	888	1070	775	980

- In response to Out-of-State State Authorization Requirements, we are now authorized or in compliance in states where 84% of our online students reside. By next July, we will be in compliance in all states in which we enroll online students.

VI. Internships:

Career Services reports the following:

- The Academic College Liaisons are meeting regularly with respective faculty and deans to increase intentionality of services, educational offerings, and coordinated discussions on experiential learning opportunities, namely internships.
- The Pilot Internship Training Program was completed by seven students with various majors in the College of Arts and Sciences in November 2014. Based on the pilot program, subsequent ITP offerings will occur in the spring (e.g., Exercise Science, additional CAS majors, etc.).
- An internship website is in development with the assistance of Public Relations, Admissions, and the academic colleges. The site includes important resources and student testimonials regarding their recent internship experiences.

VII. Curriculum:

The following course proposals have been approved:

New Course	Date Posted
ENGR/PHYS 150: Foundation of Physics and Engineering	4/3/14
NURS 4XX: Health Care in Africa	11/5/14
Change to Course	
EDUC 242: Math for PreK-1	2/18/14
EDUC 250: Early Development and Intervention	2/19/14
ENGR 253L: Intro to Computer Aided Design	3/27/14
Course Deletion	
EDUC 140: Intro to Early Childhood Education	10/17/14
EDUC 143: Adolescent Physical & Social Development	10/17/14
EDUC 221: Middle Level Cognitive Development	10/17/14
EDUC 224: Integrating the Arts, Motor Dev & Health For PreK-4	10/17/14
EDUC 245: Interdisciplinary Assessment	10/17/14
EDUC 343: Evaluation & Measurement	10/17/14
EDUC 360: Assessment for Middle School Curriculum	10/17/14
EDUC 361: Reading to Learn with Trade-Books & Texts Grades 4-8	10/17/14
EDUC 364: Inclusionary Practices	10/17/14
EDUC 372: Integrated Methods: Middle Level Math/Science	10/17/14
EDUC 373: Integrated Methods: Social Studies/Literacy	10/17/14

