

TO: Faculty Senate Report

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

DATE: February 5, 2016

RE: Provost's Report for February

I. SPRING CONVOCATION:

The Spring Convocation is scheduled for Thursday, February 16th from 11:30 to 1:00 pm in the DeNaples Center.

II. ASSESSMENT UPDATE:

Monitoring Report: The University is required to submit a monitoring Report to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) by April 1, 2016. In preparation, the Office of Educational Assessment (OEA) is working with programs to put their assessment plans into action, identify reliable measurement tools, and assist faculty in the analysis of evidence collected on student learning outcomes. The goal is to facilitate a common understanding of the MSCHE standards on assessment of student learning, prepare programs to implement assessment practices, and use the results to improve student learning.

Program Assessment Reports: Dr. Harrington will be contacting CAS chairs and program directors about additional reviews and decisions that were made (since the summer) about assessment findings reported in the 2014-2015 annual report.

III. FACULTY SEARCHES:

We are conducting thirteen faculty searches; as of this date four have been successfully concluded.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE SEARCHES:

The searches for the Associate Provost and for the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness have been suspended. A new position description, which combines the duties of these two positions, will be developed in the coming months, with a goal of posting the position in the early fall of 2016.

V. RANK AND TENURE:

The Board on Rank and Tenure held formal meetings on January 15, 16 and 22 to review application of eighteen candidates. The President received the recommendations from the Board on Rank and Tenure, and we are awaiting his decision. All candidates will be informed of the decision in a meeting with the Provost.

VI. FULBRIGHT NOMINATIONS:

I am delighted to report that Dr. Trussler has notified me that five of this year's eight Fulbright candidates have been recommended as national semi-finalist. There were over 10,000 applicants this year for the approximately 1,500 awards nationwide. Each country will now select the Fulbright recipient from the semi-finalist list for that country. These decisions can be made any time between February 15th and June 1st.

VII. MEDICAL SCHOOL PLACEMENT:

I am delighted to report that Dr. Engel has informed me that as of this date 24 students have received acceptances to 37 medical schools and 4 students have been accepted to 10 dental schools.

VIII. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT:

Summer Grant Proposals/Clavius Funding:

A call for proposals for Summer Grants and Clavius funding were sent to faculty on February 1st and 2nd respectively. The deadline for submission is March 3, 2016.

Provost Faculty Enhancement Awards:

A request for nominations for the Provost Enhancement Awards were sent out to Deans and Department Chairs on January 29th. The Provost Advisory Group will assist the Provost and Associate Provost in making the determination on the awards recipients. The awards will be presented at the Faculty Appreciation Day dinner scheduled for April 1st from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in The DeNaples Center’s Ballroom

IX. UPDATED SABBATICAL LIST:

The following sabbaticals have been approved for the 2016-2017 Academic Year.

Fall 2016

- Sean Brennan
- Jafor Chowdhury
- Michael Hardisky
- John Hill
- Sharon Hudacek
- Lisa Lesneski
- Daniel Sweeney, S.J.
- Nabil Tamimi
- Daniel West

Spring 2017

- W. Andrew Berger
- Mary Ann Foley
- Timothy Foley
- Irene Goll
- George Gomez
- Len Gougeon
- Teresa Grettano
- Oliver Morgan
- Rose Sebastianelli
- Marc Shapiro
- Stephen Whittaker

Academic Year 2016-17

- Richard Larson
- Matthew Meyer
- Ann Pang-White
- Charles Pinches
- Margarete Zalon

Intersession and Summer 2017

- George Aulisio

X. CURRICULUM:

The following proposals have been approved:

Program Change:

- Health Informatics Certificate Program
- MBA/MHA dual Degree Program
- Applied Sociology Minor
- MA in Theology
- EXSC Clinical Track

Date Posted

- 10/30/15
- 10/1/15
- 10/22/15
- 7/22/15
- 10/30/15

New Course:

BIOL 357/NEUR 357: Developmental Neuroscience 9/22/15

Course Change:

INTD 201C: Christian Classics I 11/4/15

Course Deletion:

INTD 202C: Christian Classics II 11/4/15

SPAN 433: Hispanic Lyric Poetry 10/1/15

XI. COLLEGE UPDATES:**College of Arts and Sciences**

- Five University of Scranton students majoring in biochemistry, cell and molecular biology (BCBM) recently presented their research at the 2015 American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) annual conference, held in December in San Diego, California.

Kania School of Management

- Nearly 70 high school students accompanied by 115 parents and guardians from 6 states attended The University of Scranton's first Future Accountants Leadership Conference. The conference included an interactive experience with members of the Kania School of Management's faculty, the Accounting Department Professional Alumni Council and students from the Business Leadership Honors Program and Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honor society. Parents saw similar presentations and University Trustee Tracy Bannon gave a parent's perspective.
- University of Scranton Accounting Professor Douglas M. Boyle, was named the Kania School of Management's Alperin Teaching Fellow for 2015 to 2018. The three-year Alperin Teaching Fellow Award was established in 1999 to recognize outstanding teaching in the Kania School of Management. Funding is provided by an endowment established in 1980 through a gift from Irwin E. Alperin, Joel M. Alperin, and Myer Alperin and their families.
- Jeremy R. Brees, Ph.D., assistant professor of management, marketing and entrepreneurship received the Kania School of Management Advisory Board Award for Curriculum Innovation for the 2015-2016 academic year. The award program particularly values innovations and enhancements in interdisciplinary and integrated learning.

Panuska College of Professional Studies

- The Panuska College of Professional Studies' "Low Vision Rehabilitation" is a two-day seminar consisting of lecture and lab experiences. The seminar focuses on examining the visual system as it relates to older adults with low vision, and the occupational therapy low vision evaluation and interventions utilized to increase independence, safety, and overall quality of life.
- We have been informed that our Master of Science in Human Resources Online Program aligns with the SHRM HR Curriculum Guidelines. The certificate timeframe is from January 2016 to December 2021.
- The Department of Education has developed an accelerated program for the Master in Special Education.

- Faculty, staff and community partners will be invited to a PCPS Community Celebration on April 5th. There will be a scavenger hunt showcasing the renovations in McGurrin and ELH, and showcasing faculty, staff and students-research and academic service projects.
- On February 26th PCPS will be hosting a conference “From the Clinic to the Classroom” sponsored by Friendship House, Geisinger’s Autism & Developmental Medicine Institute and PCPS. The topic is Behavioral Strategies & Social Skills to Support Students with Special Needs.

Weinberg Memorial Library

- The Library is requesting book and tag sale donations for its annual spring sale, as well as volunteer to help with preparation and staffing for the event, which will take place during the last weekend of April. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library.