

TO: Faculty Senate

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

DATE: October 2, 2015

RE: Academic Affairs Report for October 9, 2015

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**1. BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

The Board of Trustees met on Saturday, September 19, 2015. Topics of discussion in the Education Committee included updates on the Strategic Plan, Enrollment Management Strategies, and Union Negotiations.

**2. OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT:**

The Office of Educational Assessment has welcomed Dr. Cyrus Olsen as Director of General Education Assessment.

Highlights of our many activities are as follows:

- Convened the Assessment Advisory Committee which met 5 times during 2014-15 AY.
- Attendance at national conferences by OEA Director and Faculty Fellows.
- Implemented an Intersession Assessment Institute.
- Developed a comprehensive plan for assessment of student learning across the University.
- Endorsed by Faculty Senate to designate General Education as a Program.
- Funded 5 OEA Grants for Faculty to attend assessment conferences or to receive additional training in assessment methods.
- Identified and continue to vet assessment platforms.
- Conducted 13 visits with programs in CAS & PCPS.
- Welcomed as guests at the CAS and PCPS Dean's Conferences, as well as the PCPS Curriculum and Assessment Committee meetings.

**3. RANK AND TENURE:**

The public meeting to inform faculty of the rank and tenure policies and procedures, held on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> was well attended.

My office has been notified that Nineteen faculty will be taking part in the rank and tenure process this year. Four are coming up for promotion to full professor, two for associate professor, six for associate professor and tenure and five for tenure, and two for tenure on appeal.

**4. COMMITTEES:**

**Faculty Handbook:**

The Faculty Handbook Committee, has approved the revised language for:

- 23.3 A Department's Responsibility in Rank and Tenure Process,

- 23.3 B Attendance at Rank and Tenure and Reappointment Meetings
- 23.10 Deans' Recommendation Letters.

The FPC voted to approve the language at its October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Dr. Freidman will be bringing the new language to the faculty at the next FAC meeting. The faculty did approve the language for 23.3 A at its September meeting.

## 5. CURRICULUM:

After consulting with Dr. Marx the following dates were sent to faculty regarding the deadlines for submitting curriculum proposals. The dates allow the reviewing bodies' sufficient time to review and approve curriculum proposals for inclusion in the 2016 – 2017 catalogs. I ask that faculty keep in mind that when submitting proposals they need to give their deans' office time to review the proposal and to send it to be posted.

All proposals **must be posted to the Faculty Senate Curriculum Board** by the dates indicated below:

- New Programs by December 18, 2015
- Major Program Changes by February 12, 2016
- New Course and Course Changes by February 22, 2016
- Any remaining small editorial changes by March 28, 2016

## 5. UPDATES:

### College of Arts and Sciences

- Dr. Arigo was among just 12 applicants in the nation accepted to participate in the National Institutes of Health's esteemed Program to Increase Diversity Among Individuals Engaged in Cardiovascular Health-Related Research (PRIDE) in 2015. This competitive program trains and mentors junior faculty members from groups underrepresented in the sciences.
- Dr. Kraus had an article on college admissions in "The Bachelor (of Arts)" published in USA Today College.
- Education for Justice has chosen Literacy as their biennial theme for the 2015 and 2016 academic year.
- Dr. Jenkins was a guest on WNPR discussing Police Leadership, Unionism, and Training in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- In July, the College of Arts and Sciences hosted Energy Path 2015, a week-long symposium on sustainability funded by the Sustainable Energy Fund. Chaired by Professor Nick Truncale of the Department of Physics and Electrical Engineering, the symposium had 380 participants, including 150 students who attended a full-week camp. Energy Path will return to the University in the summer of 2016 and is supported by the Sustainable Energy Fund.
- This year's Ignatian Values in Action Lecture featured Sister Helen Prejean, the author of this year's Royal Read, *Dead Man Walking*, with an audience of approximately 3,500. Related events included a Community Breakfast, a videotaped interview with Sister Helen, and class visits and a panel discussion including previously featured authors, Tina Kelly (2013) and Jay Sullivan (2014).

- Our new Mock Trial Team recently won its first "scrimmage" at Elizabethtown College and will compete in its first invitational at the end of October.

### **Panuska College of Professional Studies**

This year the Panuska College of Professional Studies is Embracing the Call to Care—A year-long celebration in PCPS. As part of the celebration the following events have been scheduled for October.

- Blessing of the Books Project for Class of 2019 began on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Look for purple container around campus to donate new or gently used children's books.
- The September issue of *Advance for Physical Therapy and Rehab Medicine* magazine features the Edward J. Leahy Jr. Hall.
- Special events have been scheduled to celebrate the many ways helping professions fulfill Jesuit goals.  
October's Events are:  
October 14<sup>th</sup> - Avi Melamed: Inside the Middle East  
October 21<sup>st</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeastern U.S. Conference on disability  
October 21<sup>st</sup> – Town Hall Meeting with Rebecca Alexander

For more information about these events and the events planned for the year visit <http://www.scranton.edu/academics/pcps/the-call-to-care/events.shtml>

## **6. International**

### Global Insights Program

The Office of International Student and Scholar Services, Cross Cultural Centers, Residence Life and the Office of Equity and Diversity launched a Global Insights Program on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Adnan Herbawi, an international student, presented on Palestine. The main goal of the program is to provide a learning opportunity for our students to encounter, first hand, a different culture or perspective, right here on campus. Students will share their personal experiences and insights from a grass roots level. For a full schedule of meeting dates and topics contact Huey Shi Chew at [hueyshi.chew@scranton.edu](mailto:hueyshi.chew@scranton.edu).

### Study Abroad

Rev. John S. Sivalon has joined the International Programs and Services Office as the Director of Global Learning Programs and Senior Advisor for Study Abroad. This redesigned position reflects a new direction for The University of Scranton's study abroad which will have a renewed focus on the University's Catholic and Jesuit mission and a greater focus on academic rigor. A general announcement will be made to the University community in the coming week.

Eighteen University of Scranton Students are studying abroad in fall 2015. The host institutions are:

Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan), Fordham Gabelli London Program, Sogang University (Seoul), Danish Institute for Study Abroad (Copenhagen), Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE) programs in Rennes France and Buenos Aires

Argentina; National University of Ireland (Galway); Loyola University John Felice Rome Center and The Beijing Center; St. Mary's University (Dubin); University of Edinburgh; University of Wollongong; Queen Mary of London.

Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

Twenty-one sabbatical applications were submitted and will be reviewed at the October and November meetings of the Faculty Research Committee. The RFP for the Internal Faculty Research Grant program was released and the deadline for submissions is XYZ.

The ORSP is launching two new initiatives in fall 2015 and announcements are forthcoming. With the goal of promoting grant writing among faculty, The Faculty Grant-Writing Award Program will provide \$1500 grants to allow faculty to write proposals during the January 2016 and summer 2016 periods. Applications for the program will be accepted until November 16, 2015. The Grant-Writing Workshop/Funding Agency Travel Award Program will provide up to \$2000 for faculty travel costs to attend a grant writing workshop in the faculty member's field of interest. The application period is open. Dr. Tabbi Miller-Scandle, Director of the ORSP is the contact person.

Another new program, SOAR – Student Opportunities in Academic Research- will attempt to cultivate and coordinate student interest in research with faculty projects. A faculty advisory board will be formed to guide development of the details of the program.