

TO: Faculty Senate Report

FROM: Joseph H. Dreisbach, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: March 3, 2017

RE: Provost's Report for March

I. Board of Trustees Update:

Two new academic programs were presented to the Board of Trustees on March 3rd. These programs, the Doctor of Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting, and the Bachelor's Degree in Physiology were approved by the BOT.

The Education Committee has asked for a full review of the University's pre-medical program.

The BOT approved the proposed University budget for 2017-18. The Southside Sports Complex construction bids arrived at nearly \$2M under estimates which allowed for some additional development and substantial savings. The project will not generate additional debt to the University.

II. HERI Survey:

The faculty response for the fall HERI survey was 48%. Thank you to those who took the time to complete the survey, and for the support of the Faculty Affairs Council in moving this important project forward. The Department of History, with a response of 90% received the \$500 award for the greatest proportion of full time faculty participating.

III. Rankings:

The University of Scranton was ranked No. 7 in the nation among in the "20 Best Online Schools for Accounting Master's 2016-2017" list published by *Best Choice Schools* (BestChoiceSchools.com), an online resource for academic degree programs. Scranton was among just two Jesuit colleges and two Pennsylvania colleges listed. The description includes a statement about the University as a place that nurtures our students for success in their careers as well as in their personal and public lives. The Master of Accountancy was noted as being designed for working professionals who want to become experts in the field of accounting.

In other online rankings, *U.S. News & World Report* [ranked The University of Scranton's offerings among the "Best Online Programs"](#) in the nation in its 2017 rankings, marking the sixth consecutive year that *U.S. News* ranked Scranton's online business and education programs among America's best.

In other rankings published by *U.S. News & World Report*, the University was among the top 10 "Best Regional Universities in the North" for 23 consecutive years. We are ranked No. 6 in the 2017 edition of the "Best Colleges" guidebook. U.S. News also ranked our programs in entrepreneurship at No. 13, finance at No. 16 and accounting as No. 20 in the

country. *U.S. News* also ranked the University No. 22 as a “Best Value Regional University in the North” and No. 2 in its category for “2017 Best Colleges for Veterans.”

IV. Faculty Searches:

We have filled one position and interviews for the remaining positions continue. The Exercise Science Department has hired Bryon Applequist as an Assistant Professor.

V. Administrator Searches:

Three searches are underway: Associate Dean of CAS; Associate Dean of the Library; and Association Provost for Academic Affairs.

VI. Fulbrights:

Dr. Susan Trussler has been notified that the *Chronicle for Higher Education* lists the University as a “Top Producer” of Fulbrights (under the Master’s Institutions category), tied for sixth among Masters I institutions. We have the highest success rate of the top 8 institutions with 5 awardees from the University’s 8 applicants.

VII. Career Services:

The Center for Career Development has implemented a career service management system that allows organization to find the University of Scranton for the purpose of recruiting our students and/or alumni based on geography, degrees and/or affiliations. Within two weeks the number of new jobs/internships posted jumped from 19 to 133 and the number of new employers jumped from 116 to 111.

VIII. College Updates:

Kania School of Management:

- The first cohort of the Nonprofit Leadership Certificate Program met for the first time on February 17th. The program’s focus is on providing highest potential leaders with the knowledge and insight required to enable their nonprofit organizations to achieve and sustain their respective missions and ensure positive community outcomes. In total we accepted 16 participants, 4 receiving full scholarships and 4 receiving 50% scholarships funded by four foundations.
- In 2017-18 a new Residential Learning Community titled Scranton Innovative Thought and Entrepreneurship will be added to the 5 existing first year living learning communities. Students will participate in a linked first-year seminar focusing on entrepreneurship, taught by KSOM Marketing, Management and Entrepreneurship Department.

Panuska College of Professional Studies:

- The CHS Undergraduate program received full accreditation (2026) from the Council for Standards in Human Service Education (CSHSE). Based upon our self-study document, the site visitors commented that they knew that they were visiting a “program of excellence.” The three graduate programs in Clinical Mental Health, School Counseling, and Rehabilitation Counseling are all accredited. In July of 2017,

Counseling's two accrediting bodies will merge with the goal of unification. This will allow all three programs to be on the same accreditation timeline through 2021 by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The result includes savings for the University and consistent standards across our three graduate programs. Board voted to reaccredit BA/BS Counseling and Human Services Program from October 2016 to October 2021.

- MHA Online accredited and fully implemented (Master of Health Administration)
- A successful visit from The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) Accreditation Self-Study Visit took place February 15-17, 2017—Doctor of Nurse Practice (DNP) and Post Graduate APRN Certificate
- National Association of Long Term Care Administrator Boards (NAB) will visit - April 2017.