

TO: Faculty Senate Report

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

DATE: February 6, 2017

RE: Provost's Report for February

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**I. SPRING CONVOCATION:**

The Spring Convocation is scheduled for Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 to 1:00 pm in the DeNaples Center.

**II. ASSESSMENT UPDATE:**

The OEA offered the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Assessment Institute in January. Thanks to the many faculty and staff who participated in the sessions. Special recognition to the OEA team and IR for their excellent presentations.

**III. FACULTY SEARCHES:**

We are currently conducting fifteen faculty searches in eleven different departments.

**IV. ADMINISTRATIVE SEARCHES:**

The search for the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs is underway. Dean Kratz chairs the search committee and the posting for the position is available on The University of Scranton Employment Online system.

**V. RANK AND TENURE:**

The Board on Rank and Tenure held formal meetings on January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> to review the applications of thirteen candidates. The President received the recommendations from the Board on Rank and Tenure, the candidate's department, the deans and the Provost and has made his decisions. Dr. Dreisbach has informed the candidates of the decisions. The Handbook provides a 30 day window, from the date of notification, for appeals based on new evidence.

**VI. FULBRIGHT NOMINATIONS:**

Dr. Trussler has notified me that three of our eight Fulbright candidates have been recommended as national semi-finalists for awards by the National Screening Committee. IIE in New York, who administer the Fulbrights, report that there were over 10,000 applicants for approximately 1,500 awards nationwide. Final decisions will be made between March 1 and June 1.

**VII. MEDICAL SCHOOL PLACEMENT:**

Dr. Engel states that as of this date 33 students have received acceptances to 49 medical schools: 8 students have been accepted to 21 dental schools; 2 students have been accepted to 3 podiatry schools; 1 student has been accepted to 2 Optometry School: and 1 student has been accepted to 1 pharmacy school. The acceptance rate for seniors is 79.41%, for non-seniors

62.5%, for re-applicants not in an external post-baccalaureate programs 77.77%, for re-applicants in external post-baccalaureate programs 66.66% and an overall acceptance rate of first-time and successful applicants of 77.97%.

**VIII. STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:**

**Strategic Initiatives Funding:**

Fr. Quinn announced the availability of Strategic Initiatives Funding to support new innovative projects that further the goals of the University’s Strategic Plan. \$120K has been allocated to support this initiative. The deadline for applications is 17 February. Those interested could contact Ms. Kate Yerkes for additional information.

**IX. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT:**

**Summer Grant Proposals/Clavius Funding:**

A call for proposals for Summer Grants and Clavius funding were sent to faculty on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively. The deadline for submission is March 3, 2017.

**Provost Faculty Enhancement Awards:**

A request for nominations for the Provost Enhancement Awards were sent out to Deans and Department Chairs on January 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in The DeNaples Center’s Ballroom

**X. UPDATED SABBATICAL LIST:**

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

**Fall 2017**

Benjamin Bishop  
Timothy Casey  
Rita Fleming Castaldy  
Brigid Frein  
Satyajit Ghosh  
Linda Ledford Miller  
Iordanis Petsas  
Susan Poulson

Christine Zakzewski

**Spring 2018**

Danielle Arigo  
Yaodong Bi  
Karen Brady  
Rebecca Dalgin  
Paul Datti  
Anthony Ferzola  
Daniel Mahoney

Stacy Smulowitz

El-Habib Zanzana

**Academic Year 2017-2018**

Joseph Kraus  
Tata Mbugua  
Kenneth Monk  
Jerry Muir  
Stacey Muir  
Mark Seid

**XI. OFFICE OF RESEARCH SERVICES AND PROGRAMS**

ORSP is offering several workshops this semester including: 1) *Speed Networking* on February 15 for inter-departmental projects; 2) *Early Investigators* on March 22; and 3) *Funding Strategies* with the Development Office - date TBA.

**XII. CURRICULUM:**

The following proposals have been approved by the Board of Trustees

**New Program:**

Master of Science in Finance

9/14/16

The following proposals have been approved by the provost:

<b>Program Changes:</b>	<b>Date Posted</b>
Associate Degree in Computer Engineering	10/17/16
Writing Minor	9/23/16
<b>New Courses:</b>	
FIN 588: Quantitative Analysis of Finance	5/17/16
HIST 139: Digital History	9/23/16
ESPC 507: Foundational Knowledge of Behavior in Analysis for Educators	5/16/16
PSIO 220: Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology I	12/16/16
PSIO 220L: Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology I Lab	12/16/16
PSIO 221: Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology II	12/16/16
PSIO 221L: Advanced Human Anatomy and Physiology II Lab	12/16/16
PSIO 320: Cellular and Integrative Physiology	12/16/16
PSIO 320L: Cellular and Integrative Physiology Lab	12/16/16
PSIO 325: Experimental Approaches in Physiology Seminar	12/16/16
PSIO 384: Special Topics in Physiology	12/16/16
PSIO 393: Undergraduate Research in Physiology	12/16/16
COMM 260: Media Criticism	11/15/16
ENLT 136X: Shakespeare One Play	10/7/16
OIM 444: Business Forecasting Models	11/9/16
<b>Course Changes:</b>	
EE 449-449L: Computer Interfacing	9/12/16
BIO/NEUR 348: Functional Neuroanatomy	11/15/16
HIST 140: Craft of the Historian	9/23/16
COMM 210: Logical & Rhetorical Analysis	9/12/16
COMM 215: Introduction to Comm. Theory	9/12/16
COMM 224: News Writing	9/12/16
COMM 226: Writing for Public Relations	9/12/16
COMM 316: Communication Ethics	9/12/16
COMM 415: Senior Seminar	9/12/16
PHED 101/EXSC 101: Weight Training	10/27/16

### **XIII. COLLEGE UPDATES:**

#### **College of Arts and Sciences**

- We will be hosting our first undergraduate Philosophy Conference later this month. The keynote speaker will be J. M. Bernstein, Distinguished Professor at the New School.
- In April we will be hosting the Spring Conference of the American Association of Physics Teachers-Central Pennsylvania Section.
- We continue to support the forums and discussions related to the *Living Wage Report 2016*.

#### **Kania School of Management**

- The University of Scranton's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Future Accountants Leadership Conference was attended by 111 top high school students with an interest in business or accounting. The students represented 93 high schools and six states. 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.
- Accounting students and numerous professional volunteers will be participating once again in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Households with incomes of less than \$54,000 in 2016 are eligible to participate.

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

- Barbara Wagner, D.P.T., director of clinical education in the physical therapy program, and her students can easily rattle off a list of the physical benefits that come from the “Seniorcise” program The University of Scranton’s Physical Therapy Department has created and has run at multiple Scranton-area senior residential communities for 20 years.
- Ask Michael Landram, Ph.D., assistant professor of exercise science, and his students majoring in Exercise Science and Sport about a similar exercise-based service-learning program they established at the Jewish Community Center on Jefferson Avenue, and they can do the same.

### **Weinberg Memorial Library**

- The McHugh Special Collections has a new exhibit “From Medieval to Modern: Highlights from the Weinberg Library Rare Book Collection.” The exhibit shows a wide-ranging selection of items from the library’s rare book collection. The exhibit includes medieval manuscripts, incunables, early printed books, Jesuitana from the Hill-Davis Collection, 19<sup>th</sup> century publisher’s book bindings and items from the Zaner-Bloser company Penmanship Collection. The exhibit focuses on book illustration, bookbinding and other aspects of book design and production. The exhibit will run from early February through April 25. There will be an exhibit reception at 6PM Tuesday April 11 in the Heritage Room and Special Collections Librarian Michael Knies will present a slide-illustrated talk titled “How to Look at a Rare Book.”
- The Jay Nathan, Ph.D. Visiting Scholar Lecture Series will be held on Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 8:00 pm in The DeNaples Center, Moskovitz Theater. The fourth installment of this series will present a panel discussion titled *India: Ancient. Culture. Democracy.*, featuring presenters: Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das, Consul General of India; Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Deputy Consul General of India; Kadhambari Sridhar, dance student of Guru Malini Srinivasan; and Jay Nathan, tenured Professor of Management at St. John’s University. The discussion will be moderated by Dr. Darla Germeroth, Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences. A reception is to follow the presentation. The event is free of charge and open to the public.
- The Weinberg Library will host the annual AJCU Library Deans’ Conference from April 23-26, 2017.