

TO: Faculty Senate

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

DATE: November 4, 2016

RE: Provost's Report for November, 2016

I. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A number of high profile events occurred on campus since the last Senate meeting. I note three: The Weinberg Memorial Library sponsored the Royden B. Davis, S.J. Distinguished Author Award event on Saturday, 29 October. Tony Award winning playwright and director, Mr. Stephen Karam, author of *The Humans*, *The Sons of The Prophet*, *Speech and Debate*, and other works was the honoree. On Tuesday, 1 November, Dr. David Card, a recognized economist from the University of California, Berkely, was recognized at the Kania School of Management hosted Jack Kelly Dinner and Henry George Lecture. We must thank Deans Charles Kratz and Michael Mensah, and especially their advisory boards and staff for these hallmark events.

II. OPEN HOUSE

I thank all the faculty who contributed their time and talent to the University fall 2016 open houses. The commitment of these faculty is evident in their work and their willingness to spend time away from their family so to engage potential students and their families in conversations about study at The University of Scranton. We talk much about this faculty commitment to *cura personalis* and it is fully evident in these events.

III. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RECRUITING

The recent resignation of the University's international student recruiter provides an opportunity to examine our current recruiting structures. Mr. Mark Kopenski, Principal of Global Student Recruitment Advisors has been retained for six months. He will examine and advise on the University's existing international recruiting activities and structures. He will also engage in the recruiting process with the expectation that international students will continue to be enrolled during this period. Mr. Kopenski met with a variety of constituencies, including faculty, during his visit on November 1st and 2nd.

IV. RANK AND TENURE:

The rank and tenure process, as stipulated by the *Faculty Handbook*, is underway. Departments and deans will be presenting their evaluations of the candidates during the month of November, and the Board of Rank and Tenure will begin their review of candidate's files on December 13th. The Board on Rank and Tenure will meet on January 13th and 14th and 20th and 21st. We have 13 candidates this year.

V. FACULTY SEARCHES:

We are currently searching for 10 tenure track faculty positions and 1 faculty specialist. One department has been interviewing candidates. The listings are posted on the Provost's website. <http://matrix.scranton.edu/academics/provost/newfacpos.shtml>

VI. OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT:

The OEA offered training for a new group of Provost Assessment Scholars, which was held at Chapman Lake at the end of October. Having completed the training, the students will work on a number of student assessment projects during the academic year. Thanks go to Nick Truncale, Mary Jane DiMattio and Geri Barber for offering this opportunity.

Save the dates for the 4th Annual Assessment Institute in January 2017. Dates are the last three Fridays in January. In addition, the OEA will be announcing its spring grant cycle for faculty development.

VII. FACULTY HANDBOOK UPDATE:

The Faculty Handbook Committee, the FPC and the faculty have agreed on language for the *Faculty Handbook* regarding 23.0 Application for Promotion/Tenure, 11.0 Non-medical Leave of Absence, 13.0 Medical Leave of Absence: Definition, 13.1 Medical Leave of Absence: Application and Process, 12.1 Application for Sabbatical and 12.2 Approval Process. (c.f. Attachment 1)

VIII. CURRICULUM:

The following proposals have been approved:

New Course

FIN 588: Quantitative Analysis of Finance
HIST 139: Digital History

Date Posted

5/17/16
9/23/16

Course Change

EE 449-449L: Computer Interfacing

9/12/16

IX. OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS (ORSP):

ORSP received a number of proposals for funding to promote high-quality faculty-mentored experiences in research and scholarship for undergraduate students that includes measurable student learning outcomes. The grant opportunity is the result of the OEA-ORSP collaboration for assessment of student research as a HIP (High Impact Practice).

X. RANKINGS:

The Wall Street Journal and Times Higher Education ranked 1,061 colleges based on their analysis of 15 individual performance indicators meant to measure student engagement and outcomes as well as the resources provided in support of education. Scranton ranked No. 210 overall and No. 170 for student outcomes and No. 189 in student engagement.

A national ranking by the nonprofit organization Educate to Career designated Scranton among the 2017 Top 100 Best Value Colleges. Scranton ranked at No. 97 of the 1,195 colleges and universities listed. This ranking was based on measurement of the percentage of graduates employed in occupations which utilize their field of study; the average salary earned by recent graduates, by school for each major category (adjusted

for region, occupation and other variables); the percentage of alumni employed within one year of graduation; loan default rates; net cost of attendance; graduation rates; and the number of years to graduate, among other factors.

In other national rankings published during the summer, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Scranton No. 6 among the “Best Regional Universities in the North” and No. 22 in the “Best Value Regional Universities in the North.” *U.S. News* also ranked Scranton’s programs in entrepreneurship No. 13, finance No. 16 and accounting No. 20 in the country, and its business school No. 184 in the nation. *MONEY* magazine ranked Scranton No. 291 among just 705 of the “nation’s best-performing colleges,” and *Forbes* ranked Scranton No. 243 of the only 660 universities listed as “America’s Top Colleges” based on analysis by The Center for College Affordability and Productivity intended to evaluate a school’s “return on investment” or “value.”

In addition, The Princeton Review ranked Scranton in its 2017 edition of “The Best 381 Colleges” among the nation’s “Best Science Labs” (No. 4), “Best Campus Food” (No. 11), “Best College Dorms” (No. 17) and “Students Most Engaged in Community Service” (No. 20).

XI. UPDATES

College of Arts and Sciences

- Asian Studies will host its Fall 2016 Film Festival in November.
- the College of Arts & Sciences and the Gerard R. Roche Center for Career Development is co-sponsoring an Alumni Panel on November 7th. The Alumni Panel will give students currently majoring in one of the Humanities the opportunity to hear from alumni who are successful in their fields.

Kania School of Management

- A study co-authored by Dr. Rose Sebastianelli and Dr. Nabil Tamimi, entitled “Improving the quality of environmental management: impact on shareholder value: was selected as an Outstanding Paper in 2016 Emerald Literati Awards for Excellence.

Panuska College of Professional Studies

- Kudos to Dr. Paul Datti, CHS program director, Dr. Lori Bruch, CHS chair and the entire CHS faculty and staff for receiving this wonderful news: The B. S. Program in Counseling and Human Services received full national accreditation for the period from October 2016 through October 2021 from the [Council for Standards in Human Services Education \(CSHSE\)](#). Council for Standards in Human Services Education (CSHSE) and the [National Organization for Human Services \(NOHS\)](#) work side by side to shape the future of human services. While CSHSE is the standard setting and approval body, NOHS is the professional organization for students, educators and providers.

Weinberg Memorial Library

- McHugh Special Collections received an important rare book donation from Paul Swift '75. He donated the fifth volume (containing the New Testament) of the Complutensian Polyglot Bible printed in 1514 at Complutense University in Madrid. This is a very rare book (only 600 printed) from a landmark six volume

Bible printed in multiple languages. The donated volume is the first Greek language New Testament printed in Western Europe (also printed in Latin). He donated it in memory of his great aunt Nellie Brown, who purchased it in 1931. She had been the first woman to take an evening course at St. Thomas College and went on to become a medical doctor. He also donated it in memory of his cousin Frank Brown who taught in the history department. The book will be featured in a rare book exhibit during spring semester in the Heritage Room.

- The Heritage Room hosted a very well attended exhibit reception for *Illustrating Scranton: The Drawings of Don Murray*. The exhibit will be up through December 9.