

TO: Faculty Senate Report

FROM: Jeff Gingerich.  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: May 6, 2019

RE: Provost's Report for May

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**1. Strategic Enrollment Planning Update**

We have formed action planning teams to begin drafting a comprehensive action plan for each strategy that were identified in phase one. During Mr. Sanborne's next visit on May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, the action plan drafts will be reviewed and steps for completion of the plans will be identified.

**2. College of Arts and Sciences Dean**

As announced by Fr. Pilarz, Brian Conniff, Ph.D., who has served the University for the last nine years as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has decided to step down as Dean at the end of the 2019-20 academic year. Following a year sabbatical, Dean Conniff will join the faculty of the English and Theatre Department in the 2021-22 academic year.

The University will immediately begin the process of initiating a national search for Dean Conniff's successor. Fr. Pilarz has asked me to assemble a search committee so that we can advertise this position in late Summer. Faculty, staff and students are currently choosing representatives to serve on the search committee according to the criteria outlined in the Faculty Handbook.

**3. Planning & Institutional Effectiveness, and Accreditation Updates**

The Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, supported by the University Planning Committee, has prepared a progress report detailing initiatives undertaken during the third year of our strategic plan. This report is available at [www.scranton.edu/strategicplan](http://www.scranton.edu/strategicplan), and an executive summary has also been provided to the Board of Trustees.

In March, proposals for a third round of strategic initiatives funding were received by the Planning Office, and review is currently underway. Those selected to receive funding will begin their work in the new fiscal year.

With the talents of our Information Technology staff, a new online Annual Report System was launched just last week. Annual Reports, which reflect upon the year's activities and achievements, outline plans for the year ahead, and present resource requests, are completed by all academic chairpersons and departmental and divisional leaders each spring and summer. The new design addresses needs identified through formal assessments and informal feedback, and offers a more streamlined, flexible, and user-friendly approach to this important planning and continuous improvement process.

Lastly, the University's Middle States Self-Study process has reached its closing stage, with the submission of final documents to the Middle States Commission in early April. These documents include the Peer Review Team Report, a written version of the oral summary offered by our Team Chair, Dr. Brennan O'Donnell, President of Manhattan College, at the conclusion of the Team's campus visit in March. The Commission will now review the Team's findings, along with our own Self-Study Report and other materials, as it deliberates our accreditation status. Per Middle States' policy, the Team Report will be made available to members of the University Community following receipt of the official action from the Commission in early summer. At that time, we will review all recommendations resulting from the self-study, and establish a process to coordinate our response to them as part of ongoing accreditation reporting.

#### **4. Health Professions Program**

37 students were accepted to 71 medical schools; 1 student was accepted to 3 dental schools; 3 students were accepted to 6 veterinary schools; 1 student was accepted to 5 podiatry schools; 2 students were accepted to 5 optometry schools and 1 student was accepted to 1 pharmacy school. For more details please see attached for details. Acceptances are still being reported with several student still on waitlists.

#### **5. Faculty Handbook Committee**

The following proposed language changes will be presented to the Board of Trustees at their May meeting.

#### **Appendix VI: Annual Reappointment and Non-Reappointment of Non-Tenured Track Faculty**

- New language to clarify that the candidate may opt to submit his or her promotion dossier and supplementary materials as their reappointment self-report for that same academic year.

#### **23.0 Application for Promotion/Tenure & Appendix I: Standard Operating Procedures for the Board on Rank and Tenure & Appendix II: Norms for Evaluating Faculty for Rank and Tenure & Appendix III: Rank and Tenure Annual Timeline:**

- The new language explains what materials need to be submitted, when they need to be submitted and to whom they need to be submitted; how the promotion/tenure delegate is chosen and their responsibilities; the role and responsibilities of the candidate, department, dean, Board on Rank and Tenure, and provost; and a timeline of the process.

#### **6. University Governance Council**

The UGC reviewed the academic calendar(s) and a number of policies this year.

- The Academic Calendars for 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 have been approved.
- The Smoking Policy was recently passed by the President's Cabinet.
- The President's Cabinet reviewed the shared governance document and had some feedback that I will share with the Shared Governance Policy subcommittee.

- Information Security Policy was approved with no changes to the policy. The policy is posted to Information Technology and Governance websites.
- The Title IX policy was approved and is currently being put in place.