

TO: Faculty Senate

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

DATE: February 4, 2019

RE: Academic Affairs Report for February 2019

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**1. Spring Convocation**

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, Fr. Pilarz gave his State of the University address at the Spring Convocation. I know that some faculty were not able to attend because of the compressed schedule due to weather conditions. Fr. Pilarz spoke about the exciting momentum happening at the University and thanked faculty who have been working on innovative proposals for new programming and strengthening the student academic experience. He emphasized that we live in a constantly fluctuating world of higher education and that it is increasingly important that we continue to stay fiscally responsible while maintaining the academic standards and excellent student experience that is foundational to the University of Scranton.

**2. Strategic Enrollment Planning (SEP) Update**

Unfortunately, Lew Sanborne (SEP consultant) was not able to come to campus as scheduled last week because of the weather conditions. We have had good communication over the phone and are setting up individual phone calls between Lew and the Working Group co-chairs over the upcoming weeks. Working Groups will continue to refine their situational analyses with the hopes of finalizing them at Lew's next visit on March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. At that point, we will also begin to prioritize the specific strategies that have begun to emerge through the work of these groups. While our goal is to produce a final strategic enrollment plan in the early fall 2019 semester, we will continue to develop and implement necessary enrollment strategies through this spring and summer.

**3. Middle States Update**

We are pleased to report to you that the University Board of Trustees approved the final Self-Study Report and that the Report, along with other essential documentation, has now been submitted to Middle States. If you would like to review the final Report, you'll find it on the my.scranton portal > News (scroll down, on left) > Middle States Self-Study.

*As the all-campus email from Middle States co-chairs, Rebecca S. Beal and Julie Schumacher Cohen noted: "We do not want to let this milestone pass without expressing our gratitude for your partnership throughout the Self-Study. Over the past two and a half years, over 70 faculty and staff from across the University have joined us in this collaborative process, serving on the Steering Committee and on Working Groups researching and analyzing our strengths and our areas for improvement; even more of you have attended town halls and fora where we've gathered information and shared our conclusions. You have read the Working Group reports and the drafts of the full Report, and many of you have provided comments that have improved the final product tremendously. Together we have documented how we meet Middle States' Standards for Accreditation & Requirements for Affiliation and identified those areas where we could do even better."*

We now look forward to the upcoming campus visit by our Middle States Peer Review Team, to take place Sunday, March 3 through Wednesday, March 6. Kate Yerkes and the Middle States leadership team are working diligently to create a multi-layered schedule for each peer review team member and we will be communicating the schedule and expectations for this visit.

#### **4. Strategic Initiatives**

In December of 2016 the creation of a Strategic Initiatives Funding pool to support new, innovative projects that further the goals of our Strategic Plan was announced. During the first two years of funding 25 projects received support.

On January 24<sup>th</sup> a call for the third round of Strategic Initiatives proposals was sent to the campus community. Proposals must be submitted to the Office of Institutional Planning by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **5. Bookstore Update**

As requested in a motion from the Faculty Senate, I met with the director of the bookstore to request that the bookstore carry a supply of books sufficient to equip all students in each course based on actual enrollments. The director explained to me that only about 30% of students recently have purchased their books at the campus bookstore and that they have to pay a “return fee” when they over-order books. In general, they try to base their orders on the number of students in the class when it was previously taught and then order a percentage based on a number of factors, such as the availability of the book in other venues. I requested that he still increase the number of books that are ordered even if it is not for the entire class limit and explained the concerns from faculty that students are coming to class saying that the bookstore was out of their books.

We also discussed a variety of other alternatives for ensuring that students can purchase their books at the bookstore. The director agreed to increase communication to the faculty through email communication so that faculty understand the option for submitting book orders online and will know when the paper book orders have been sent to the department secretaries. I will continue to work with the bookstore director and encourage everyone to let me know if they are having difficulties with bookstore orders.

#### **6. 2020-2021 Academic Calendar**

I appreciate the feedback that I have received regarding the creation of the academic calendar for 2020-2021. The calendar is a complex issue and I am grateful for the leadership of our Registrar, Julie Ferguson, in facilitating ongoing discussion and providing the necessary data. The University Governance Committee (UGC) Calendar Committee has decided to propose a 2020-2021 calendar that mirrors the “new calendar” created for 2019-2020 since the original proposal for 2019-2020 was to pilot the new version for two years. The UGC Calendar Committee will present the 2020-2021 calendar proposal to UGC in February and formal feedback will be solicited from the various senates this spring. It is my hope that UGC will recommend a calendar to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs by the end of the spring term.

#### **7. KSOM Dean Search**

The search for the next dean of the Kania School of Management continues to stay on schedule. The search committee met to consider a strong pool of applicants and identified the semi-finalists to move forward in the process. The search committee and I will be interviewing these semi-finalists in confidential meetings on February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. We will then identify finalists who will come to campus in late February or early March. I am grateful to the search committee for the extensive amount of time they have put into this search and especially to Susan Bowen for her leadership in chairing the search committee.

## 8. Faculty Search

Faculty searches continue into the spring semester. To date we have hired or sent contracts to thirteen candidates. Please join me in welcoming three new faculty that started this spring.

Ian O'Hara	Assistant Professor	Library
Tracy Murray	Faculty Specialist	Nursing
Richard O'Hara	Faculty Specialist	Accounting

## 9. Rank and Tenure

The Board on Rank and Tenure held formal meetings on January 11, 12 and 18, 2019 to review the application of eighteen candidates. Fr. Pilarz received the recommendations from the Board on Rank and Tenure, the candidate's department, the deans and the Provost and has made his decisions. I have been meeting with the candidates to inform them of the outcomes. Candidates have 30 days to appeal their decision.

## 10. Weather delays

Thank you to all faculty and staff for their flexibility and endurance during a particularly frigid first week of classes for the spring semester. We will continue to try to make weather delay/cancellation decisions based on the best interest and safety of our employees and students, and I know this requires significant adaptation at times. The good news is that Punxsutawney Phil did NOT see his shadow which means for certain that we are in for an early spring!

## 11. Fulbright Nominations

Four of our five applicants have been selected as National Semi-Finalists for grants. Final decisions will be made by the countries between March 1<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 12. Career Development

Listed below is data from the Career Services First Destination Survey of the 2018 Class.

### Undergraduates

- 98% of the undergraduate class reported success in their career path
- We were able to collect information from 79% of the undergraduate class (n=711/898)
- The mean salary for successful undergraduates was \$51,282
- 79% reported at least 1 experiential learning opportunity

### Graduates

- 99% of the graduate class reported success in their career path
- We were able to collect information from 68% of the graduate class (n=415/607)
- The mean salary for successful graduates was \$62,571

## 13. Internships

The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with The University of Scranton's Small Business Development Center, has launched the [Small Business Internship Fund](#), which seeks to place the area's best and brightest students in Chamber member businesses. The fund will offer up to \$500 in matching support to eligible Chamber member businesses to provide internships to area college students who meet the program criteria.

Established by The University of Scranton Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in 2013, [the Small Business Internship Initiative](#) offers entrepreneurs the opportunity to grow their businesses with the help of local student interns, while providing students access to experiential learning close to campus. The SBDC provides confidential guidance to help clients determine whether hosting an intern is the right option along with assistance in preparing internship

descriptions, guidance with conducting interviews and supervisory skills, and more. Internship opportunities are shared with Career Development partners and students at 11 regional colleges & universities and posted on [smallbusinessinternships.com](http://smallbusinessinternships.com).

#### 14. Faculty Development

##### *Summer Grant Proposals/Clavius Funding*

A call for proposals for Clavius and Summer Grants funding were sent to faculty on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The deadline for submission is March 1, 2019.

##### *Provost Faculty Enhancement Awards*

A request for nominations for the Provost Enhancement Awards was sent out to the deans, department chairs, and for the first time to all full-time faculty. Nominations should be sent to my office by February 28, 2019. 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 12th in the DeNaples Center's Ballroom.

#### 15. Curriculum

##### **New Course**

	<b>Date Posted</b>
COMM 339: Social Media and Sports	9/13/18
T/RS 290: Christianity in the Middle East	9/13/18
T/RS 332: Theology & Disability	9/13/18
T/RS 555: Christian Unity & Division	9/13/18

##### **Program Changes**

Communication Department Name Change	9/7/18
MS Business Administration HR Specialization	10/10/18
Executive Nursing Leadership Specialization in MSA	10/10/18

##### **Course Deletion**

PSYC 110L: Demonstrations for Fundamentals of Psychology	9/7/18
EC 251: Introduction to Electronic Business	10/10/18
EC 462: Projects in Electronic Business	10/10/18
EC 470: Supply Chain Management	10/10/18
EC 471: Information Systems Security	10/10/18
EC 472: Electronic Business & Entrepreneurship	10/10/18
EC 473: Business Applications of Communication Networks	10/10/18

#### 16. Rankings

The University of Scranton ranked in the top 10% of colleges in America for “overall quality” in a 2019 ranking by College Factual. Scranton ranked No. 161 in the national ranking of 1,779 schools. College Factual also ranked Scranton in the top 10 percent in the nation in its ranking of “Best Religiously Affiliated” schools, placing Scranton at No. 16 in a list of 185 schools.

Our MAcc Program has been ranked #1 in the nation by *Best Colleges* for the third consecutive year. Congratulations and thank you to faculty in this department for its tremendous success.

In other postings on the College Factual website, several Scranton programs ranked in the top 15 percent in the nation, including criminal justice, nursing, accounting, business administration, marketing and international business.

*U.S. News and World Report* included Scranton in a national ranking of the “Best Undergraduate Business Programs” (No. 199) and ranked Scranton’s entrepreneurship program at No. 31, its finance program at No. 36 and its accounting program at No. 37 in the country. In the overall ranking for colleges, *U.S. News* ranked Scranton No. 6 among the “Best Regional Universities in the North,” marking the 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that Scranton ranked in the top 10 of its category. The Princeton Review also listed Scranton in its 2019 edition of “*The Best 384 Colleges,*” ranking Scranton among the nation’s “Best Science Labs” (No. 16) and “Best Campus Food” (No.15).

## 17. College Updates

### Kania School of Management

- University of Scranton accounting Professor Douglas M. Boyle, D.B.A., was profiled as one of just six “Professors to Know in Business Programs Based in the Northeast” selected by Bschoools.org, an online resource for entrepreneurs. The professors, who teach at business schools in the Northeast with online MBA programs, were selected based on their professional experience and knowledge.

### Library

- Digital Services is currently working on a year-long project with the Terry and Paula Connors Photograph Collection from McHugh Special Collections. This collection documents the work of Scranton freelance photographer Terry Connors, and has been an ongoing processing and digitization project for the Weinberg Memorial Library since 2008. The collection includes a subset of photographic negatives for over 6,000 University of Scranton events photographed by Terry Connors from 1976-2004. These photographic negatives are housed in University Archives and are not accessible to the University community. This project by Digital Services will make the descriptive information for the University of Scranton events discoverable in the Library's digital collections. When completed, these University event records, as well as other photos from the Connors Collection, will be available at [www.scranton.edu/library/connors](http://www.scranton.edu/library/connors).
- The Library has had numerous staff changes recently. Kelly Banyas, formerly the Research and Instruction Librarian for the Health Sciences, stepped into the role of Research and Instruction Librarian for Student Success. Ian O’Hara was the successful candidate for the Research and Instruction Librarian for the Health Sciences and started in January. Ian came from our Technical Services department as the Serials/Electronic Resources Clerk. Sheli Pratt-McHugh was named as Assistant Dean of the Library and will start February 1<sup>st</sup>. Sheli previously served as Cataloging and Metadata Librarian, Learning Commons Coordinator, and Department Chair of the Library. George Aulisio, Research and Scholarly Service Coordinator, was elected as the new Department Chair of the Library.

### College of Arts and Sciences

- The University of Scranton is hosting the Sixth Biennial Student Leadership Conference of the Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network (JUHAN) from June 14-16, 2019. JUHAN’s principal focus is undergraduate education that seeks to advance humanitarian study and professional practice in the field of humanitarian action. Please visit their website at [www.scranton.edu/juhan](http://www.scranton.edu/juhan) for more information.