

TO: Faculty Senate

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

DATE: November 1, 2019

RE: Academic Affairs Report for November 2019

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### **CAS Dean Search Update**

The search for the next Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences continues to progress as planned. The Search Committee met earlier this week to discuss the current pool of candidates and, after a deep review and thoughtful conversations, selected an exceptional group of semi-finalists who will interview with the Search Committee in November. We will invite finalist candidates to campus in December. We will be sending more information as those dates get closer.

I again want to thank the members of our search committee for this important position:

**Charles Kratz**, Dean of the Library, **Chair of the Search Committee**  
**Christine Falbo**, CAS Academic Advisor  
**Timothy Foley**, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Chemistry  
**Brian Kilner**, Undergraduate student in CAS  
**Thomas MacKinnon**, Vice-President for University Advancement  
**Jessica Nolan**, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Psychology  
**Stephen Whittaker**, Ph.D., Professor, Department of English and Theatre

### **Strategic Enrollment Planning Update**

We are nearing the completion of the Strategic Enrollment Planning period. Lew Sanborne will be back on campus on November 12 and 13. We will primarily use this time to wrap up the action plans, discuss the future strategic enrollment planning process, and meeting with the SEP Council and the President's Cabinet. We look forward to presenting a finalized SEP plan to the campus in early spring 2020.

### **Faculty Searches**

We are currently searching for 17 tenure track faculty positions. The link to the listings are posted on the Provost's website at [Faculty Searches](#).

### **Graduate Programs Council**

The Graduate Programs Council held its first meeting on October 21, 2019. This was largely an organizational meeting, with much of the time spent on discussing the council's purpose, charge, scope, etc. The council also reviewed historical trends in graduate programs at the University. Monthly meetings for the academic year have been set.

### **Rankings**

We continue to be recognized for the outstanding education and student experience that we provide. The University of Scranton ranked among the nation's "Best Colleges" in an online

2020 listing by College Factual of “colleges and universities that meet high standards and provide quality outcomes to students.” Scranton ranked No. 177 in the national ranking of 1,727 schools. In a listing of 123 “Best Colleges” in Pennsylvania, Scranton ranked No. 19.

College Factual also ranked Scranton at No. 22 the nation in its ranking of “Best Religiously Affiliated,” which listed just 182 schools in the country. They also ranked several of our programs in the top 15% in the nation, including accounting, biochemistry, biophysics and molecular biology, business administration, criminal justice, international business, marketing, nursing, and philosophy and religious studies.

In other national rankings, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Scranton No. 6 among the “Best Regional Universities in the North,” No. 5 in its category for the nation’s “Most Innovative Schools,” and No. 12 in its category for “Best Undergraduate Teaching.” *U.S. News* has also ranked Scranton as a “Best Value” school for seven consecutive years. *The Princeton Review* included Scranton in its list of “Best Colleges” and ranked Scranton No. 7 for the “Best Science Labs” in the nation and No. 19 for the “Best Campus Food” in the nation.

### Curriculum Updates

<b>New Course</b>	<b>Date Posted</b>
SOC 222: Gender in Society	9/20/19
ART 130: Introduction to Digital Photography	9/20/19
PHIL 232: Women in Chinese and Western Philosophies	9/27/19
ENLT 254: “Bodybuilding”: Narratives of Health & Ability	10/2/19
ENLT 256/CINE 256: Cinema Studies Watching the Detectives	10/2/19
ENLT 257/CINE 257: Cinema Studies: The Western	10/2/19
BUAN 582: Customer Relationship Management	4/25/19

<b>Course Change</b>	
DS 201: Introduction to Data Science	9/16/19
KNES 210: Sport and Exercise Physiology	10/9/19
EXSC 380: Internship in Exercise Science	9/16/19

<b>Program Change</b>	
MBA-MHA Dual Degree	5/7/19

### Other Updates and Events

- The University of Scranton established The Sondra H’87 and Morey Myers H’12 Distinguished Visiting Fellowship in the Humanities and Civic Engagement, which was formally announced at a two-day event on campus Oct. 24 and 25. The fellowship will “help to enrich the community and elevate the type of serious thinking and reflection”. The fellowship will be housed in the University’s Slattery Center for the Humanities.
- Denis McDonough, former chief of staff to President Obama and Senior Principal at The Markle Foundation will speak to campus about the role of the humanities in workforce development. This event will take place at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> in the McIlhenny Ballroom in the DeNaples Center.

- PCPS will reactivate its “Circle of Scholars.” The purpose of the “Circle of Scholars: is to gather informally to share the craft of scholarly writing – a time to share struggles and joys in the process of scholarly writing. (Gatherings will take place two to three times a semester)
- On Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Kane Forum – Avi Melamed (Middle East Intelligence Analyst) will present “An Inside Look At the War in Syria.”
- A Ceremony of Remembrance will be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 am in the Kane Forum
- On December 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm we will hold the “Blessing of the Books” in the Kane Forum