

TO: Faculty Senate

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

DATE: February 7, 2020

RE: Academic Affairs Report for February 2020

1. Search for Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

I am pleased to announce Michelle Gonzalez Maldonado, Ph.D., has been named Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences effective July 1, 2020. Since 2014, Dr. Maldonado has served as Assistant Provost of Undergraduate Education at the University of Miami, where she has also served since 2016 as the Executive Director of the Office of Academic Enhancement and as a professor of religious studies. Dr. Maldonado joined the faculty at Miami in 2006.

Dr. Maldonado’s leadership experience in working with academic deans, faculty, students and professional advisors, complemented by her dedication and care of historically underrepresented and first-generation college students, will make her a great asset at Scranton. Additionally, her education and career display a deep appreciation for the Catholic and Jesuit mission that is central to our work together.

I wish to thank and commend the search committee, headed by Charles Kratz, former dean of the library and information fluency, for their efforts.

2. Strategic Plan

In December we updated the University community on our current strategic planning efforts, including our emphasis on the fact that the foundation of the new strategic plan will be deeply informed by our three recent campus-wide efforts which received extensive input from faculty, staff and students: the Mission Priority Examen, the Middle States Self Study and Strategic Enrollment Planning. It was clear to the Board that much good work has already been done to chart our future and that any plan we undertake must respect and reflect these efforts. In this communication, we also asked faculty and staff to share their thoughts regarding important strategic questions facing our University via an electronic survey. Thank you to everyone who replied to this survey. We received valuable input on the priorities for this next plan.

In January and February, four campus conversations were scheduled with faculty and staff to discuss the overall plan and to react to draft strategic goals. Again, thank you to all those who attended and especially to University Planning Council (UPC) members who facilitated these table conversations. The discussions were very helpful in adapting and strengthening the strategic goals for the plan.

The draft strategic goals for the new strategic plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the May 21st meeting for possible endorsement. Once these goals are in place, we will then continue to work with the UPC to coordinate further campus-wide

discussions to build the plan for full presentation to the Board of Trustees at the May meeting. We look forward to working with everyone to ensure a strong strategy and plan for the future.

3. Rank and Tenure

Please join me in congratulating our faculty colleagues who achieved promotion in rank and/or tenure. The following have been recommended by the Board on Rank and Tenure and approved by Fr. Scott Pilarz for their outstanding accomplishments in the areas of teaching, service and scholarship:

Dr. Sufyan Mohammed	Communication	Professor
Dr. Paul Datti	Counseling & Human Services	Professor
Dr. Iordanis Petsas	Economics & Finance	Professor
Dr. Sean Brennan	History	Professor
Prof. Michael Knies	Library	Professor
Prof. Donna Witek	Library	Professor
Prof. George Aulisio	Library	Professor
Dr. Jessica Nolan	Psychology	Professor
Dr. Nathan Lefler	Theology & Religious Studies	Professor
Dr. Will Cohen	Theology & Religious Studies	Professor
Dr. Habib Zanzana	World Languages & Culture	Professor
Dr. Nicholas Sizemore	Chemistry	Associate/Tenure
Dr. Jinghan Cai	Economics & Finance	Associate/Tenure
Dr. Jo Ann Nicoteri	Nursing	Associate/Tenure
Dr. Ozgur Isil	Operations & Information Management	Associate/Tenure
Dr. Juan Serna	Physics& Electrical Engineering	Associate/Tenure
Dr. Patrick Orr	Psychology	Associate/Tenure
Dr. Howard Fisher	Communication	Associate
Dr. Wendy Manetti	Nursing	Associate
Dr. Ahmed Gomaa	Operations & Information Management	Tenure

4. The Office of Educational Assessment (OEA)

This spring, the OEA plans to implement a modified Program Assessment Report (PAR) template, pending approval by the AAC. Mary Jane DiMattio distributed the template at the December CAS Dean’s Conference and is seeking Chairs/Program Directors (i.e. those with responsibility for assessment reporting) to give feedback on the modifications. We have one volunteer thus far and would appreciate two or three more. Modifications constitute the addition of items addressing planning for assessment and results of assessment-based decision-making. The modified form streamlines our process by incorporating planning and reporting into one document. We will make the template available electronically as soon as feedback and AAC approval are received. As a reminder, any program undergoing Program Review during the ‘19-20 Academic Year may submit the *assessment of student learning portion only* of their program review in lieu of a PAR to satisfy assessment reporting for the AY.

With respect to GE Program assessment, CL assessment has been a great success thus far, showing encouraging results. We thank our colleagues in English and Theatre for generating a robust sample of student responses in the fall ($n = 138$). The work will continue this spring with direct assessment in at least one section of Fiction. We hope for additional indirect assessment using the same instrument as in the fall. Assessment is also underway in CF, thanks to our colleagues in World Languages. We are seeking faculty volunteers teaching D designation courses to help us to plan an assessment. Thus far, one colleague has come forward.

OEA offers access to the Aqua and Via products within the Watermark Assessment Platform. These tools allow for efficient collection and scoring of student work. OEA has successfully used Aqua for both GE and program assessment, and two departments in PCPS are using Via across programs. Aqua is best suited for assessment of similar or different student assignments across multiple course sections, using a common rubric. Via is best for work within an individual course or in multiple courses assessing the same student assignment, using a common rubric. We have found the products not well-suited for surveys or student self-assessment. We can offer other solutions for this type of assessment.

Nick Truncale is Aqua certified, and Ray Schwenk is our Via expert. They have been working with Richard Walsh, CTLE, and IT on interconnectivity between Watermark and D2L. Any program or department wishing to have a demonstration of these products or other solutions should contact OEA at assessment@scranton.edu.

Mary Jane DiMattio gave an assessment presentation to adjunct faculty at CTLE's Adjunct Faculty Orientation on 1-27-20. OEA began orienting adjunct faculty in 2019 and has been welcoming new, full-time faculty since opening in 2014.

The National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA) selected the University's Institutional Effectiveness website, which also houses Assessment, to be featured on their website as a best practice. The criteria for selection were communication, creativity, and centralized assessment information.

<https://www.scranton.edu/academics/provost/institutional-effectiveness/oea.shtml>

OEA thanks Kate Yerkes, Nick Truncale, Richard Walsh, and Cyrus Olsen for their planning, execution, and maintenance of the site.

5. Global Initiatives

Study Abroad

Fall 2019

- Faculty-led: 4 students
- Non Faculty –led : 14 students

January Intercession 2020

- Faculty-led: 101 students
- Non Faculty-led : 41 students

- Service Trips Faculty-led: 35 students

Spring 2020 (In progress)

- Faculty-led: (3 courses going abroad/student #s not yet confirmed)
- Non Faculty-Led : 34 students

International Students

Spring 2020

New: 8 new exchange students
 9 new graduate students from KSOM
 1 new graduate student from PCPS

Returning international students = 47

Total enrolled for spring 2020 = 65 international students

Research Scholar

We received Dr. Jeongil Choi, research scholar from Soongsil University, South Korea this January. Dr. Choi is sponsored by the Department of Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship. He is on sabbatical for one year and is collaborating with Dr. Tae Wan Kim on a research project.

6. Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) provides support to both faculty and student researchers. ORSP has assisted with the preparation of, and submitted, 39 external grant proposals to date. This includes 11 federal grant submissions and 2 state grants. The remainder were foundation or other agency submissions. Grant writing stipends were provided to 6 faculty members to support grant writing over intersession.

On the undergraduate research front, ORSP has awarded 16 grants as part of the Research as a High Impact Practice (rHIP) funding initiative. Six Undergraduate Awards in Humanistic Inquiry (UAHI) were given in conjunction with the Humanities Initiative Committee. The 20th Annual Celebration of Student Scholars has been scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2020, which represents the last day of National Undergraduate Research Week. Several additional activities have been planned for the days leading up to the celebration, including a kickoff event on April 20, and highlights of student researchers from varying disciplines throughout the week. ORSP has provided a cash incentive to students this academic year to register for the Faculty Student Research Program (FSRP). This initiative marks the 30th anniversary of the program, and may capture unregistered students who are performing faculty-mentored research. Registrations increased by 43% in Fall 2019 as compared to the Fall 2018 semester, and we have received positive feedback from faculty. ORSP will continue this incentive into the 2020-2021 academic year.

7. Faculty Searches

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

Michael Kelley Counseling and Human Services
Dana Gadaire Counseling and Human Services

8. Fulbright Nominations

Artem Samiahulin, our lone student applicant this year was recently notified the he is a National Semi-Finalist for a Fulbright to Kazakhstan. Artem is an Economics major and Math minor. We should get a final decision in the second half of the Spring semester.

9. Faculty Development

Summer Grant Proposals/Clavius Funding

A call for proposals for interdisciplinary faculty seminars supported by the Clavius Fund was sent to faculty earlier this month. The deadline for applications is March 1.

Provost Faculty Enhancement Awards

A request for nominations for the Provost Enhancement Awards was sent to the deans, department chairs, and faculty.

Nominations should be sent to my office by February 21st. 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 March 27th in the DeNaples Center.

10. Curriculum

New Courses

	Date Posted
COMM 335: Advertising Leadership	11/12/19
CHED 340: Advocacy and Health	10/9/19
HIST 260: Native American History	10/31/19
HIST 261: Indigenous Peoples of the Americas	10/31/19
HIST 244: History of Modern Japan	12/4/19
COMM 261: Videogame Culture & Women	10/24/19
COUN 548: counseling Children & Adolescents	1/2/20

Course Changes

COUN 533: School Counseling	12/3/19
HIST 279: China in the 20 th Century & Beyond	11/7/19

New Program

Integrated Data Analysis Concentration	10/17/19
MS, Business Analytics	12/3/19

Program Change

Women and Gender Studies	10/31/19
Physics/EE Department	9/23/19
Asian Studies Concentration	11/7/19
Forensic Chemistry	10/24/19

11. Other Updates

- Margarete Lieb Zalon, Ph.D., Nursing Department won second place in the History and Public Policy category of the 2019 *American Journal of Nursing* Book of the Year Awards. The *American Journal of Nursing* Book of the Year Awards is an esteemed and prestigious competition in which the best in nursing publishing are chosen by a panel of judges who are experienced and well-established in the healthcare community. Awards are given for first, second, and third places across 20 categories. 2019 marked the 50th year of the awards.
- Two prestigious academic journals have ranked the Accounting Department of The University of Scranton in the top six in the nation for its scholarship in the areas of teaching/learning and applied practice. A 2019 edition of *The Accounting Educators' Journal* and a 2019 online preprint (to be published in 2020) edition of *Issues in Accounting Education* published articles on the scholarship productivity of faculty in accounting programs across the nation. With respect to authorships of individual accounting faculty across the nation, four Scranton faculty members were recognized: Douglas Boyle, James Boyle, Brian Carpenter, Ph.D., professor of accounting; and Daniel Mahoney, Ph.D., professor of accounting.
- The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) awarded University of Scranton Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) student Joy Chacko the Michael J. Barrett Doctoral Dissertation Award for his DBA program dissertation study entitled "The Effects of Internal Audit Management Training Ground and Reporting Relationships on Internal Auditors' Judgments."
- The third annual HamSCI Workshop 2020 for amateur radio operators and professional scientists will be held March 20-21 at The University of Scranton. The workshop also serves as a team meeting for the HamSCI Personal Space Weather Station project, which is a National Science Foundation funded project awarded to the University's physics and electrical engineering professor, Nathaniel Frissell, Ph.D.