

TO: Faculty Senate Report

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

DATE: Tuesday, April 6, 2021

RE: Provost's Report for April

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### **Down the "Home Stretch"**

I hope that everyone had a restful and rejuvenating Easter Break. While we are continuing to see low positivity rates on campus up to this point in the semester, we still have 6 weeks of classes in this challenging semester. We are particularly watching the impact of students returning to campus after Easter Break. Students who chose to depart the Scranton area for the break will be scheduled for University surveillance testing during the weeks immediately following the break.

### **Summer and Fall plans**

As announced (<https://www.scranton.edu/royals-safe-together/assets/documents/summer-fall-2021.pdf>), the University will begin to open campus for in-person events and activities this summer, which will include orientation sessions for the Class of 2025, ongoing admissions tours, some classes and laboratories, University-sponsored summer programs, and conferences and camps conducted by outside groups. Campus will remain closed to the general public.

We also plan to offer undergraduate and graduate classes fully in-person in fall 2021, excluding graduate programs that are traditionally online. Classes are expected to begin as planned on Monday, Aug. 30, with Fall Welcome Weekend scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 28-29. Implementing a fully in-person approach will depend on a number of factors, including vaccination and infection rates, and will demand that we retain many of the safety measures now in place. All plans are subject to change based on guidance, directives, science, circumstances, health and safety.

### **Commencement**

Given how important the commencement milestone is in the lives of our students and their families we were pleased to be able to plan for an in-person Commencement in May in the Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre. Considering the new capacity guidelines from the state, we have revised our original plans in order to provide as much in-person celebration as possible, while continuing to operate in a safe and healthy manner.

On March 26, Peggy Burke sent an invitation to all faculty asking for RSVP's to Commencement events. We will need to know which event(s) faculty will be attending so we can make sure we stay within the capacity limits. Faculty will process in for each of the ceremonies. Students will report directly to their seats to avoid any line-up concerns in the hallways. We will be sending you more specific information closer to the event dates.

The most substantial changes are to move Commencement weekend to May 22-23 and to divide the traditional undergraduate ceremony into three distinct ceremonies (one per college or school) in order to keep the overall attendance at any one event below the 2,500-person limit. Secondly, in order to accommodate as many students and guests as possible, the Graduate Commencement

Ceremony will be moved to the Mohegan Sun Arena. As we have in the past, Commencement events will be available for live online viewing. Our plans are now as follows:

❖ **Commencement Weekend is Moving to May 22-23**

Commencement weekend will move to May 22-23 instead of the original dates of May 29-30. For health and safety reasons, the decision makes it possible for students to return home sooner by holding Commencement nearer to the submission of final grades. Consequently, traditional senior week activities will not occur. Because of this change, the University will mail individual diplomas to students in June. Each student will receive a ceremonial scroll at their respective Commencement ceremony when crossing the stage.

❖ **Graduate Commencement: 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 22, at Mohegan Sun Arena**  
Graduate Commencement will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 22, at the Mohegan Sun Arena. Each graduate will be provided four tickets for guests.

❖ **Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies by College: Sunday, May 23, at Mohegan Sun Arena**

The University will conduct one Undergraduate Commencement ceremony for each college or school on Sunday, May 23, at the Mohegan Sun Arena. Each graduate will be provided four tickets for guests. The schedule for the three ceremonies is as follows:

9:30 a.m. Panuska College of Professional Studies Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony

1:00 p.m. Kania School of Management Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony

4:30 p.m. College of Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony

❖ **Class Night, Baccalaureate Mass and Other Events**

Class Night will be held virtually at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 21. A virtual Baccalaureate Mass will be available for viewing at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 22. The schedule and plan for other Commencement events will be shared shortly.

Updated information is also available through the [Commencement website](#). Of course, the pandemic has taught us all the need to be flexible should we need to adapt to any changes in federal or state guidelines between now and May.

### **Diversity and Inclusion Strategies**

An update email was sent to the campus community since my last report that detailed many of the efforts underway to help us understand how we can continue to work toward being a more welcoming and safe community. Specifically, in regard to faculty development in this area, I will continue to work with a core group of faculty to strategize for intentional and effective approaches to educating our entire faculty on diversity, inclusion, and equity issues and practices. I particularly want to thank Amy Simolo in the CTLE for organizing the Inclusive Pedagogy Faculty Development 2-day workshop, **Antiracist Teaching** with guest speaker, Dr. Milagros Castillo-Montoya. I encourage you to consider attending and participating in this important discussion. Information can be found here:

<https://www.scranton.edu/academics/ctle/emails/pedagogy-castillo-montoya-antiracist-teaching-spring21.pdf>

### Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

If you are mentoring a **Senior or Graduate student** who is performing research or scholarly work, we ask you to encourage them to share their results using the link below. They may submit an abstract that we will make available to the University community. They also have the option of submitting a video (approximately 3 minutes in length) in which they describe their project and conclusions. *Students from all colleges and disciplines are encouraged to participate!* Acceptable student scholarly work includes thesis research, research conducted as part of the Faculty/Student Research Program (FSRP) or resulting from a President's Fellowship for Summer Research (PFSR), and research or other scholarly projects carried out as independent study. Scholarly work that has been previously presented or published elsewhere is welcome. Students may also submit work in progress. If you have any questions about what is appropriate for inclusion in this event, please contact Dr. Tabbi Miller-Scandle at [tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu](mailto:tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu).

We are excited about this opportunity to recognize the scholarly work of our students! Students may submit an abstract and video (optional) **by April 23, 2021** using this link <https://forms.office.com/r/u3sMcyEFPd>

### Faculty Searches

We have successfully completed six faculty searches:

Alicia Hatcher	Assistant Professor	English and Theatre
Neelam Lahankar	Faculty Specialist	Chemistry
Nicole Hoskins	Assistant Professor	Theology/RS
Rachel Frissell	Faculty Specialist	Physics and Engineering
Dana Brookover	Assistant Professor	Counseling and Human Services
Natalie Gilboy	Faculty Specialist	Nursing

### Rank and Tenure

I want to offer my profound congratulations to the faculty who received promotion or tenure this year. I am grateful to all of the Board on Rank and Tenure, deans, chairs, department members and other faculty who participated in this thoughtful and rigorous review process.

Below are the 2020/2021 Rank and Tenure results effective August 31, 2021.

Doug Boyle	Accounting	Professor
Dr. Murli Rajan	Economics/Finance	Professor
Mr. Paul Cutrufello	Health & Human Performance	Professor
Dr. Andrew LaZella	Philosophy	Professor
Mr. Matt Meyer	Philosophy	Professor
Dr. Bryan Burnham	Psychology	Professor
Dr. Patrick Clark	Theology/RS	Professor
Dr. Christian Krokus	Theology/RS	Professor

Dr. Yamile Silva	World Language & Cultures	Professor
Dr. Michael Landram	Health & Human Performance	Associate/Tenure
Dr. Ismail Onat	Sociology/CJ & Criminology	Associate
Dr. John Ruddy	Economics/Finance	Associate
Dr. Andrew Venezia	Health & Human Performance	Associate
Dr. Hamza Adeinat	OIM	Associate
Dr. Julie Nastasi	OT	Associate
Dr. Stacy Smulowitz	Communication & Media	Associate
Dr. Peter Andersen	Management/Marketing/Entrepreneurship	Tenure
Dr. Katherine Stumpo	Chemistry	Tenure
Dr. Wendy Manetti	Nursing	Tenure

### **Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs**

The following faculty and students have been awarded a President's Fellowship for Summer Research 2021

Dr. Michael Allison	<i>U.S. and Latin American Relations</i>
Dr. Mehmet F. Bastug	<i>Threat Construction and Framing of Cyberterrorism in the U.S. Media</i>
Dr. Bryan Crable	<i>Freshwater microbial communities associated with natural debris and the Aquatic Resource for High-Frequency Underwater Research (ARTHUR) at Lake Lacawac Biological Field Station and Environmental Education Center</i>
Dr. Roxana A. Curiel	<i>Illegible Lives: Blackness, Indigeneity, and Femme Bodies in Mexico</i>
Dr. Maria Poggi Johnson	<i>Theologies of Death and Afterlife in the Fiction of George Saunders</i>
Dr. Matthew Reavy	<i>Professional Communication Ethics Text</i>
Dr. Murong Xu,	<i>A Study on r-hued Graph Coloring</i>

The following faculty have been awarded Clavius Grants for 2021-2022:

Michael Bermudez, EdD, OTR	<i>Educational Technology 101: Tools for Student Engagement in Online Learning</i>
Darryl DeMarzio, Ph.D.	<i>Augusto Del Noce and the Crisis of Modernity</i>

Christie Karpiak, Ph.D. Adam Pratt, Ph.D.	<i>Interdisciplinary Research on Racism and Economic Inequality</i>
William F. Miller, Ph.D.	<i>Talking Jesuit With Non-Jesuits: How Centuries Old Principles Inform Our Actions Today</i>
Roxana Curiel, Ph.D. Anne Royer, Ph.D. Billie R. Tadros, Ph.D.	<i>Supporting Faculty from Underrepresented Backgrounds: Supporting the Mandated of the Society of Jesus to Serve Faith and Promote Justice</i>

## **Planning**

### Annual Department Planning & Reporting

The University's Annual Report System will open on April 6, 2021. Academic and administrative departments use this system to submit their annual Department Report (a summary of key activities and achievements over the most recent year), their OEA Program Assessment Report, and their Department Plan (which outlines goals for the coming year, including how those goals align with the University's Strategic Plan). Chairs also submit departmental resource requests for the year to follow. Academic department Annual Report submissions are due to the Dean of their respective college by June 30, 2021.

## **Curriculum**

### **Program Change**

	<b>Date Posted</b>
Clinical Exam Mental Health Counseling	1/26/21
School Counseling	1/26/21
Rehabilitation Counseling	1/26/21
Secondary Education – World Languages	1/26/21
EDUC 445: Professional Practice Seminar Pre-K – 4	1/26/21
Neuroscience	1/8/21

### **New Course**

COUN 585: Comprehensive Exam	1/26/21
ENLT 128: The Prison and Literature	1/11/21

### **Course Revision**

COMM 430: Advances Business Communication Strategies	1/20/21
COMM 435: Social Media Campaign	1/20/21