

TO: Faculty Senate Report

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

DATE: November 13, 2020

RE: Provost's Report for November

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## 1. Thank you

I want to begin by expressing my gratitude to all faculty for ensuring the success of this very unusual semester amidst all of the challenges that we have faced. We could not have made it through the semester without your flexibility and commitment to our students. At the beginning of the semester, I think we all wondered if we could remain on campus throughout the entire semester, but we knew that it could only happen if we worked together to establish and follow standards to keep each other safe. In addition, I know that a semester without “breaks” to provide some relief has been particularly stressful on faculty. Thank you.

## 2. Spring Academic Calendar

Last week we announced details about changes to the spring academic calendar and our plans for instruction. Anticipating continued national challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we revised the calendar for all undergraduate and campus-based graduate programs.

The revised 2020-2021 academic-year calendar has been posted to the [Registrar's website](#). You will notice that we have made the following modifications to the traditional calendar:

- Classes in the revised Spring 2021 calendar begin on Monday, February 1, and conclude (as originally planned) on Friday, May 21.
- The week that was previously scheduled for Spring Break has been cancelled. Two additional days of no classes have been built into the calendar: Tuesday, March 9 and Wednesday, March 24.
- The Easter holiday break will be held as scheduled: Thursday, April 1 through Monday, April 5. Wednesday, April 7 will run as a regular Wednesday class session (not on a Monday as originally planned).
- Mid-term grades are due by noon: Wednesday, March 24
- Final exams begin on Monday, May 17 and conclude on Friday, May 21. Final grades are due by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 24
- Graduate Commencement remains on Saturday, May 29. Undergraduate Commencement remains on Sunday, May 30

Following the Royal Flex Program introduced in the Fall Semester, we will plan on offering Intercession and Spring courses in the same five instructional approaches. Instructional approaches to the courses have been posted in the [course schedule](#). We will continue to

follow trends with the COVID-19 virus and modalities are subject to change through the start of the Intersession and Spring terms.

The calendar for online graduate classes and programs will continue as originally planned.

Thanks to all who provided valuable insight in crafting a calendar that reduced the likelihood of students leaving campus for extended periods of time (spring break) while at the same time including “breaks” to provide some relief throughout the semester, Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Shared Governance Committee, and Student Government provided important feedback. As always, FAC Executive Committee provided important insight and formal consultation as per Faculty Handbook. Thank you to Julie Ferguson for always leading and organizing these calendar discussions.

### **3. Taking a Break over the Break**

As we enter a longer winter break, beginning at the Thanksgiving holiday, we do hope that December can be a time of rest and rejuvenation. When possible, I encourage you to consider whether meetings are necessary during December so that you and others can find the time to rejuvenate after this long, break-less semester. I know that some work will have to continue to take place (and even acknowledge that I will probably need to still hold some of my meetings with you!). I want to take this time to acknowledge as well those faculty who will continue teaching through December in our graduate online classes.

### **4. Faculty Development**

The Faculty Development Board reviewed applications for Intersession grants and awarded 7 grants to the following faculty:

Dr. Sean Brennan	<i>William Warren Scranton and his international service to Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford 1968-1977</i>
Dr. Jinghan Cai	<i>Too Long or Too Short? Stock Exchange Trading Hours Adjustment and Its Impact</i>
Dr. Teresa Grettano	<i>Bursting Our Political Bubble: Dialogue Across Difference in the Age of Polemics</i>
Dr. Hengameh Hosseini	<i>Developing Federated Learning Methods for Health Administration Data</i>
Dr. Marc Shapiro	<i>Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook and a New Jewish Theology</i>
Dr. Brian Snee	<i>Streaming Blasphemy: Generic Incongruity in the Marketing of Netflix’s “The Two Popes”</i>
Dr. Jong-Hyun Son	<i>Effects of High-Fat Diet on Central Nervous System Development</i>

## 5. Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

- There have been 14 rHIPS awards funded this semester in support of student research projects.
- Eight Internal Research Grant applications were received by the Faculty Research Committee and will be reviewed this coming week.
- Seventeen external research proposals have been submitted so far, this academic year.
- The Faculty Research Committee has reviewed 23 sabbatical applications, decisions will be announced before the end of the semester.

## 6. Curriculum Updates

### New Course

	<b>Date Posted</b>
ABA 605: Philosophical Underpinnings of Applied Behavior Analysis	10/5/20
ABA 615: Behavior Assessment in Applied Behavior Analysis	10/5/20
ABA 625: Behavior Change Procedures in Applied Behavior Analysis	10/5/20
ABA 635: Personnel Supervision and Management Interventions	10/5/20
HIST 250: Science and Society	10/13/20
HIST 113: American Military History	10/13/20
HIST 251: History of Medicine	10/13/20
HIST 271: Disney's American History	10/13/20
INTD 138: Physiology of Resilience	9/11/20

### Course Change

ABA 640: Measurement and Experimental Design in Behavior Analysis	10/5/20
BIOL 346: Endocrinology and Reproduction	9/18/20
BIOL 368: Neuroethology	9/18/20
BIOL 395: Extreme Physiology	9/18/20
BIOL 446: Cardiovascular Physiology	9/18/20
BIOL 453: Skeletal Biology	9/18/20

### Course Deletion

ENLT 123: Masterworks of Western Civilization	10/13/20
ENLT 124: The Art of Fiction	10/13/20
ENLT 210: Modern Poetry	10/13/20
ENLT 214: Macabre Masterpieces	10/13/20
ENLT 215: Literature of the Absurd	10/13/20
ENLT 222: Graham Greene's Travelers	10/13/20
ENLT 229: Cross-Cultural Novella	10/13/20

### Program Change

Women and Gender Studies to Major	10/13/20
Women and Gender Studies to Concentration	10/13/20