TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Michelle Maldonado, Ph.D.
      Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: May 3, 2024

RE: Provost Report

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE
The 2020 Strategic Plan was constructed through a widely consultative process that included reflection on assessment; planning engagement at the departmental, college, and divisional levels; campus-wide surveys and fora; discussions with representative governance groups; and the continued work and careful discernment of the University Planning Committee (UPC) and President’s Cabinet. Since its approval by the Board of Trustees in May 2020, the implementation of the plan has followed the same path, engaging a wide array of members of our campus community in ways both big and small.

As part of our integrated planning model, University departments, colleges, and other administrative areas take part in an annual planning cycle to articulate ways to support the plan through their own activities and collaborative initiatives. In addition to their fundamental use in formative planning, assessment, and resource discussions at each level, documents prepared in this process are reviewed to identify & celebrate work done at each level in our annual strategic plan progress reporting. In addition, topical committees, including the DEI and Laudato Si steering committees, have been actively engaged in developing and guiding the implementation of focused strategies to address our needs and goals in each area, directly supporting corresponding Strategic Plan goals, and the broader directions of the Society of Jesus’ Universal Apostolic Preferences and AJCU Characteristics of Jesuit Education. The www.scranton.edu/strategicplan website includes summary of activities and achievements across the five goals of the Strategic Plan, including key data and outcomes indicators.

As the current plan will wrap in spring 2025, we have begun the process of building our next strategic plan for 2025 and beyond. Grounded in our mission and Catholic, Jesuit identity, the new plan will outline strategies and goals to address external challenges and opportunities and address internal assessment and other growth & improvement targets. Steered by the University Planning Committee (UPC), members of the faculty, staff and student body have already begun to contribute to this work through participation in discussions and surveys. Members of the Board of Trustees will also be asked to contribute to the process via a strategic planning survey this summer. A draft plan will be prepared and shared with members of the University community in early fall 2024.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS
I am pleased to report that our two Fulbright finalists have been notified that they were awarded a Fulbright Scholarship.
• Shelby Traver, a Political Science and International Business double major has been awarded a Fulbright to study in Rwanda. Her project is entitled “The Secondary Effects of the Rwanda Gender Quota on the Bureaucracy and Legislative Staff.”

• Adrian Laudani, a member of the class of 2018 has been awarded an English Language Teaching Assistantship in Spain. She received a bachelor’s degree in Counseling and Human Services in 2018 and served in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps after graduation and received a master’s degree in International Studies from the University of San Francisco in 2023. Adrian will be teaching English at the secondary level in either Madrid or Malaga.

FACULTY HANDBOOK COMMITTEE
I will present the changes to the Appendix II and VII of the *Faculty Handbook* to the Board of Trustees for final approval. The language was recommended by the Faculty Handbook Committee, FAC, FPC and faculty.

PCAPC
The PCAPC has completed it’s work on the revision of our Credit Hour Policy to meet the new standards set by Middle States. Based on the committee’s recommendation I approved the policy. It will appear in the 2024-2025 Graduate and Undergraduate catalogs.

FACULTY APPRECIATION CELEBRATION
On May 2nd a combined Faculty Appreciation and Faculty Retirement celebration was held in the Kane Forum.

Please join me in celebrating and honoring the faculty that are retiring this year.

- Dr. Irene Goll (1988-2024)
- Dr. Ed Scahill (1989-2024)
- Dr. Daniel West (1990-2024)
- Prof. Michael Costello (2014-2024)

The Provost Faculty Enhancement Award were also presented at the celebration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty Name</th>
<th>Award Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Gerard Dumancas</td>
<td>Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Hank Willenbrink</td>
<td>Excellence in Scholarly Publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Lori Bruch</td>
<td>Excellence for University Service and Leadership</td>
</tr>
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<td>Dr. Satyajit Ghosh</td>
<td>Excellence for University Service and Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Ian O’Hara</td>
<td>Excellence in Integrating Diversity in Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Michael Allison</td>
<td>Excellence in Advancing Global Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Madline Gangnes</td>
<td>Excellence in Integrating Sustainability into The Curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Kimberly Pavlick</td>
<td>Excellence in Integrating Sustainability into the Curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Michael Landram</td>
<td>Excellence in Community Based Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Mehmet Bastug</td>
<td>Faculty Senate – Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award</td>
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FACULTY SEARCHES
To date we have hired 17 new faculty and searches continue. Below is the list of new faculty:

Chi Hou Lei  Assistant Professor  Physics & Engineering
Michael Catalano  Assistant Professor  Political Science
Megan Heeder  Assistant Professor  Theology/Religious Studies
Mehmet Ali Yetim  Assistant Professor  Management, Marketing & Entrepreneurship
Anna Jaskiewicz  Assistant Professor  Economics, Finance & International Business
Jinqing Liu  Assistant Professor  Education
Paul Tierney  Assistant Professor  Counseling & Human Services
Xinyu Zhou  Assistant Professor  Management, Marketing & Entrepreneurship
Jennifer Whittaker  Assistant Professor  Occupational Therapy
Krisy Elrod  Assistant Professor  Counseling & Human Services
Ehsan Mahyari  Assistant Professor  Operations & Analytics
Margaret Lakomy  Visiting Assistant Professor  Chemistry
Mary Tabit  Assistant Professor  Psychology
Aaron Ziegler  Assistant Professor  Health & Human Performance
David Mahalak  Assistant Professor  Operations & Analytics
Elyse Kay  Faculty Specialist  Occupational Therapy
Courtney Lancia  Faculty Specialist  Occupational Therapy

CURRICULUM APPROVALS

Course Changes                      Date Posted
BCMB 490: Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Capstone  3/4/24
EDUC 240: Early Language and Literacy, Birth to Age 5  3/4/24
EDUC 250: Early Development and Intervention  3/4/24
OT 350: Quantitative & Qualitative Research Methods  4/5/24
ENLT 462: Literary Criticism and Theory  4/3/24
NURS 293: Principles of Research and Evidence-Based Practice  2/20/24
CMPS 134L: Computer Science I Lab  4/16/24
CMPS 144L: Computer Science II Lab  4/16/24
CMPS 240: Data Structures and Algorithms  4/16/24
ENLT 490-491: Senior Seminar  4/16/24
ART 120: Painting I  4/16/24
BIOL 364: Molecular Virology (MC)  4/16/24
ME 240: Introduction to Mechanical Engineering  4/16/24
ENGR 251: Dynamics  4/16/24
ENGR 352: Thermodynamics  4/16/23
ME 430: Engineering Economics  4/16/23

New Courses
ENLT 324: Climate Fiction  3/4/24
EE/PHYS 455: Plasma Physics Fundamentals  4/16/24
S/CJ 391: Career Seminar II  2/24/24
Course Deletion
BCMB 440: Proteomics  3/4/24

Program Change
Middle Level Education  3/4/24
Secondary Education  3/4/24
Environmental Science  4/12/24
Mechanical Engineering  4/16/24
Sociology Major  4/24/24
Cybercrime and Homeland Security  4/24/24
Secondary Education Modern Language  3/4/24
Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship  4/3/24
Biochemistry Cell and Molecular Biology  4/10/24
Psychology Major  4/16/24