

TO: Faculty Senate

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

DATE: May 3, 2024

RE: Provost Report

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### **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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Dr. Gerard Dumancas	Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award.
Dr. Hank Willenbrink	Excellence in Scholarly Publication
Dr. Lori Bruch	Excellence for University Service and Leadership
Dr. Satyajit Ghosh	Excellence for University Service and Leadership
Prof. Ian O’Hara	Excellence in Integrating Diversity in Learning
Dr. Michael Allison	Excellence in Advancing Global Learning
Dr. Madline Gangnes	Excellence in Integrating Sustainability into The Curriculum
Dr. Kimberly Pavlick	Excellence in Integrating Sustainability into the Curriculum
Dr. Michael Landram	Excellence in Community Based Learning
Dr. Mehmet Bastug	Faculty Senate – Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award

## 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*

	<i>Date Posted</i>
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