

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: David Marx, Ph.D.  
Acting Provost/Senior VPAA

DATE: October 4, 2024

SUBJECT: Provost Report for October 2024

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## 1. Interim Provost

Tracy M. Stewart, Ph.D., has agreed to serve as Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years. She will begin her service on Monday, Oct. 21.

Dr. Stewart brings a wealth of experience to her role. She is an accomplished scholar and administrator with a decade of service as a senior academic leader. Her most recent role was as Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for the 2023-2024 academic year.

She has had a diverse professional journey. In addition to her recent work in higher education, she is the founder and CEO of Constructive Wave Consulting, which offers a range of services, including peer-based executive coaching and team development. She began her career as a clinician in the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic and later as a child and family psychologist for the Alaska Area Native Health Service.

Dr. Stewart earned a B.A. in psychology from the University of Vermont, an M.A. in community psychology and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Virginia, and an M.S. in organization development from Pepperdine University. She has written and offered presentations nationally and internationally on topics ranging from organizational psychology and leadership to emotional intelligence and behavioral health.

## 2. Strategic Plan Update

During the spring and summer 2024, The Office of Planning & Institutional Effectiveness, supporting the work of the University Planning Committee in its capacity as steering committee for the development of our next strategic plan, gathered input from across the University community. This input included comment from students, faculty, staff, administration, and the Board of Trustees about issues that may be important to consider in our strategic planning. Constituents also weighed in on topics addressed in our [current strategic plan](#) that may be in need of further attention in the new plan.

From this feedback, several shared themes have emerged from across all groups as early considerations for our planning. These include issues such as

- renewed focus on student access, both ability to attend as well as accessibility of student support and success resources while they are here;

- supporting belonging, wellness, and continued support for DEI and social justice and civic engagement efforts;
- improving and expanding internal and external collaboration and collegueship;
- collaborative academic and enrollment planning, with special focus on supporting graduate and nontraditional student programming and populations; and
- supporting the future financial sustainability and vitality of our University, and effective stewardship of environmental, technical, and other campus resources.

Constituents also emphasized the need to continue seeking practical expressions of our mission, and taking another look at recent assessment data, such as the HEDS Climate Survey, and Noel Levitz Student Satisfaction survey. As the UPC continues to review and reflect on the input obtained so far, there will be more ways for students, faculty, and staff, along with our alumni, to share ideas throughout the fall as the UPC moves forward in its work in developing potential strategic goals and supporting objectives.

Each group has emphasized the need to establish a fresh, clear, shared vision of success for our University. Responding to this feedback, we will augment the planning process to take time to reflect on our shared vision this fall. Watch for invitations to reflect on our [current vision statement](#), and offer your suggestions for a renewed statement. A resource describing vision statements, and their relationship to other guiding statements and planning is available along with other materials on the [Strategic Planning 2025](#) web site.

### 3. Rankings

*The U.S. News & World Report* has once again ranked The University of Scranton among the top 10 regional universities in the north, placing Scranton No. 6 in its 2025 edition of the “Best Colleges” guidebook. This marks the 31<sup>st</sup> consecutive year the U.S. News has ranked Scranton in the top 10 in its category. The also ranked us No. 6 for “Best Undergraduate Teaching,” a selection of top colleges in the nation that express a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching.

### 4. Rank and Tenure

A public meeting to inform faculty of the rank and tenure policies and procedures was held on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-nine faculty have applied for tenure and/or promotion for 2024-2025. Six faculty have applied for full professor, eleven have applied for associate, six have applied for associate and tenure and six have applied for tenure. The deadline for submitting dossiers and CVs is October 22, 2024.

### 5. Bookstore

I want to remind faculty that in order to be in compliance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA) all course materials must be posted through the University of Scranton Bookstore. This is a federal policy. You can find information on this here: <https://www.scranton.edu/academics/registrar/book-orders.shtml>. **All Intersession and Spring bookstore orders must be submitted by October 31<sup>st</sup>.** An email was sent on September 30<sup>th</sup> directly from the bookstore with information on how to. In addition to HEOA compliance, students who receive a book and supply award through their financial aid package must purchase their books from the bookstore. I ask

that we all collaborate to both be compliant and compassionate to our students who can exclusively use the bookstore.

## 6. Provost Committee on Academic Policy and Compliance

The PCAPC has created two working groups to look at three compliance-driven topics to ensure that we have policies and procedures in place to address current needs and be prepared to meet the federal and other regulatory requirements. I have reached out to Dr. Grettano to get the names of faculty to serve on each of these working groups.

### **Course & Program Delivery Modes: Definitions, Coding**

This working group

- will look at work to update the list of delivery modes,
- update the procedure
- develop a draft set of standard operating procedures that sets parameters for how campus codes are developed, assigned, and utilized
- propose a set of distance education/modality definitions for use across campus,

### **Regular and Substantive Interaction in Distance Education (RSI)**

This working group will consider

- the regulatory requirements of RSI
- should additional information or resources be developed and made available to faculty
- what are the most appropriate resources/support units to assist faculty in ensuring distance education courses address RSI requirements.
- What processes should be included as part of new course and program development to ensure that RSI requirements are included
- Develop a policy for how compliance with RSI requirements will be monitored and reviewed.

## 7. Curriculum Updates

### **Program Changes**

	<b>Date posted</b>
MBA-MHA Dual Degree Program	5/17/24
Health Humanities Program	9/30/24
THTR Major	9/30/24
THTR Minor	9/30/24

### **Course Change**

MGT 474: Managing a Multicultural Workforce	5/13/24
MKT 351: Introduction to Marketing	5/13/24
OT 780: Doctoral Capstone III	9/20/24
ENLT 233: Imagining Native Americans	9/30/24
ENLT 254: Bodybuilding: Health & Ability	9/30/24
HONR 287H: Honors Keystone	9/30/24

### Course Deletion

OT 451: Hand Rehabilitation	8/27/24
OT 593: Evaluation & Intervention for Visual Impairment in Older Adults	8/27/24
PCPS 501: Interdisciplinary Assessment in Pediatrics	8/27/24
PCPS 540: Allied Health Seminar I	8/27/24
PCPS 541: Allied Health Seminar II	8/27/24

### 8. Updates

- Yamile Silva, Ph.D., was appointed general editor of the academic *Journal of Gender and Sexuality Studies/ Revista de Estudio de Género y Sexualidades*, which is published by Michigan State University Press. She will serve as general editor for five years, beginning in 2025.
- On October 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am the Schemel Forum's World Affairs Luncheon Series: "There's a Future in the Past: Leading a Repertory Orchestra/Band in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" will be presented by Vince Giordano, Grammy-winner, multi-instrumentalist and band leader. Rose Room, Brennan Hall. Registration required. Fees vary. Call 570-941-4740 or email [schemelforum@scranton.edu](mailto:schemelforum@scranton.edu).
- On October 21-November 22 the Hope Horn Gallery will host an Art Exhibit: "Hudson River and Delaware Valley: Selections from the Paul Biedlingmaier Jr. Collection." Free during gallery hours Call 570-941-4214 or email [darlene.miller-lanning@scranton.edu](mailto:darlene.miller-lanning@scranton.edu).
- On October 21 at 5:30 p.m. the Schemel Forum with the Gail and Francis Slattery Center for Ignatian Humanities Collaborative Program will host the Myers Distinguished Visiting Fellow in the Humanities and Civic Engagement Lecture: "What Can a Body Do? How We Meet the Built World" presented by Sara Hendren, associate professor of art, design and architecture, Northeastern University. The lecture will be in the Heritage Room, Weinberg Memorial Library. Registration required. Free, courtesy of the Myers Fellowship. Reception follows. Call 570-941-4740 or email [schemelforum@scranton.edu](mailto:schemelforum@scranton.edu).
- On October 24<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. an Ethics Across the Curriculum Speaker: "Beyond the 3Rs: How to Shift the Current Animal Research Paradigm" will be presented by Kathrin Herrmann. Pearn Auditorium, Brennan Hall. Call 570-941-4700 or email [sarah.kenehan@scranton.edu](mailto:sarah.kenehan@scranton.edu).
- This year's Henry George Lecture will be held on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Marc Melitz, Ph.D., the David L. Wells Professor of Political Economy at Harvard University will present "Global Production and Innovation Networks: Consequences for Trade and Industrial Policy" McIlhenny Ballroom, DeNaples Center. Call 570-941-4048 or email [janice.mecadon@scranton.edu](mailto:janice.mecadon@scranton.edu).
- On October 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. Schemel Forum's World Affairs Luncheon Series: "Bridge Over Troubled Water: Harnessing the Power of Music, Art, and the Humanities for Better Health" presented by Olapeju Simoyan, M.D., professor of psychiatry, Drexel University College of Medicine. Rose Room, Brennan Hall. Registration required. Fees vary. Call 570-941-4740 or email [schemelforum@scranton.edu](mailto:schemelforum@scranton.edu).

- On October 25<sup>th</sup> the dedication of W3USR Amateur Ham Radio Station will be held at 3:10 pm in the Loyola Science Center PNC Auditorium followed by an open house of the new radio station, research poster display and reception. At 6:15 pm there will be a Ham Radio Station W3USR Dedication Dinner Buffet held in the Loyola Center Atrium. Tickets are required \$30 to attend. Visit [scranton.edu/w3usr-dedication](http://scranton.edu/w3usr-dedication). Call 570-941-7509 or email [w3usr@scranton.edu](mailto:w3usr@scranton.edu).