

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Joseph H. Dreisbach
Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: October 17, 2016

RE: Academic Affairs Report for October 21, 2016

1. Updates from the Interim Provost:

Board of Trustees. The BOT met on Friday, September 30th. The Board approved the development of the South Side Athletic Complex up to \$15M with a timeline for completion by November 2017. Funding is based primarily on directed gifts and there will be no financing for this project.

The BOT also expressed interest in the discussions on “cost of education”, assistance for students with special needs, on-line programs, and other topics.

AJCU Chief Academic Officer Meeting. Major topics at this meeting included: financial state of AJCU schools; potential for collaboration, especially for institutions in severe financial crisis; campus climate issues; accessibility for first generation college students; potential impacts of the policies from the new federal administration on higher education, including financing and oversight.

HERI Survey. After conversations with the Executive Committees of the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Affairs Council, the Interim Provost authorized the Office of Institutional Research to move forward with the project in fall 2016. The Survey provides important information to inform the University community on faculty life. This is especially important as the University moves into its MSCHE self-study project.

Examen. The AJCU is moving forward with the Examen project – a reflective, institutional assessment of Catholic and Jesuit identity. The project is directed by the Secretary General and is required of all 28 AJCU institutions. The five that have completed the work report that it was a positive experience. More detail will be forthcoming.

Recruiting for an Associate Provost. Dean Kratz has agreed to chair the search committee for the Associate Provost position. JHD requests that the Faculty Senate provide the faculty representatives according to the process described in the Faculty Handbook, Appendix IV- D.

International Recruiting Project. Following the resignation of the University’s full-time international student recruiter, we have entered a six month agreement with Global Student Recruitment Advisors, LLC to perform two functions: review and recommend

on the University's international student recruiting practices, and to continue recruiting international students.

Strategic Funding RFP. We are continuing to develop the RFP but are researching factors such as review process, 2nd and 3rd year funding, and rubrics for assessing the proposals. We continue to hope for the release before the end of the semester.

Motion #3 2016-17. Conversations addressing this motion, i.e. "dual admission agreement" with Luzerne County Community College are scheduled so to move forward the process of developing specific articulation agreements with LCCC and other potential partners.

2. Office of Educational Assessment:

Eight faculty and three staff members participated in the third annual Assessment Conference at Drexel University. Five members of the group offered two peer-reviewed presentations: "*How to Develop a Comprehensive Assessment Plan*" by Satyajit Ghosh, Nick Truncale, and Richard Walsh, and, "*What a Difference Assessment Can Make*" by Dan Haggerty & Rebecca Haggerty. OEA is now planning for the Intersession Assessment Institute to be held during the latter part of Intersession.

The OEA will sponsor training for a new group of Provost Assessment Scholars, The original scholars were trained to lead "Focus Groups" and analyze data at a Wabash University workshop in the spring, which was sponsored by the Teagle Foundation. The new scholars will join the original group to complete a number of student assessment projects during the academic year. Nick Truncale is coordinating the training and the group projects, with assistance from Mary Jane DiMattio, Geri Barber, and Liz Chalk. Student led focus groups are a widely utilized assessment technique, and OEA has references available upon request.

OEA and Planning held a thank you luncheon for members of OEA, AAC, and program directors/chairs, who contributed substantially to the Monitoring Report. Fifteen persons were in attendance. The group generated a list of items around areas that went well and areas that could be improved both in terms of the writing of the report and assessment in general.

OEA has begun conversations with TAG about piloting an assessment platform and is also in conversation with other campus divisions and groups who need a system for archiving and sharing curricular and other reporting documents.

3. Rank and Tenure:

The public meeting to inform faculty of the rank and tenure policies and procedures was held on September 22nd.

My office has been notified that thirteen faculty will be taking part in the rank and tenure process this year. Three are coming up for promotion to full professor, two for associate professor, four for tenure, and four for tenure and promotion to associate.

4. Curriculum:

After consulting with Dr. Marx the following dates were sent to faculty regarding the deadlines for submitting curriculum proposals. The dates allow the reviewing bodies' sufficient time to review and approve curriculum proposals for the inclusion in the 2017-2018 catalogs. I ask that faculty keep in mind that when submitting proposals they need to give their deans' office time to review the proposal and to send it to be posted.

All proposals **must be posted to the Faculty Senate Curriculum Board** by the dates listed below:

- New Programs by December by December 19, 2016
- Major Program Changes by February 13, 2017
- Course Changes by February 20, 2017
- Any remaining small editorial changes by March 27, 2017

5. College Updates:

College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences is sponsoring a visit to campus by Mark Schwehn, November 1-3. Dr. Schwehn was Dean of Christ College at Valparaiso University for thirteen years and Provost from 2009 to 2014. He is known nationally for creating and establishing the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts and for his work over more than twenty years as the Lilly Fellows Program Project Director. He will be meeting with several groups of faculty, including faculty teaching the first-year seminar.

Education for Justice will be holding the following events;

- October 26: A discussion on the Colombian peace process facilitated by Yamile Silva, Associate Professor and Director of Latin American Studies.
- October 27: Dr. Terri Ann Parnell, a nationally recognized health literacy expert and principal of Health Literacy Partners, LLC, will discuss "Health Literacy: An Essential Component for Achieving Health Equity."
- Senior, Jessica Wenke has been named for first JUHAN Fellow at The University of Scranton. Jessica will travel to the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in Washington, D.C. in November and the JUHAN Conference at Holy Cross in June. She will also be organizing JUHN-related activities on our campus.

Panuska College of Professional Studies

- Avi Melamed, Middle East Strategic Intelligence Analyst, author and creator of a blog, *New Middle East Requires a New Understanding* will present all day on November 7th to our students with an open lecture at 7:00 pm.
- There will be a Celebration of Remembrance Ceremony held on November 18th celebrating the lives of those men and women who donated their bodies after death for educational and research purposes.

Library

In July 2012 Weinberg Library became the home for the archives of the Passionists of St. Paul of the Cross Province which had been located in the east coast headquarters in

Union City, NJ. While most of the archives arrived in Scranton at that time, a portion of the material, the China Collection, was sent to the Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History at the University of San Francisco to be digitized. From 1921 to 1955, eighty Passionist missionary priests, among which was one religious brother- served in West Hunan, China. The China Collection arrived in Scranton in late August (we received a digital copy earlier). The China Collection consists of approximately 300 archival boxes of reports, correspondence, deeds, and approximately 10,000 photographs. The Passionist Collection, in general, is an actively used collection and we expect the newly arrived China Collection to also be well-used by scholars and students and to serve as subject matter for Heritage Room exhibits.

Through December 9th, the Heritage Room will feature an exhibit on the work of local artist Don Murray. Comprised mainly of pen and ink drawings, the works on view depict the historic architecture and landmark sites of Scranton and the surrounding northeast Pennsylvania landscape. Murray's works demonstrate his refined technical skill in pen and ink that he acquired through professional training as a draftsman while serving in the Armed Forces in the 1940s. For 17 years, Murray served as chief illustrator at the International Correspondence Schools (ICS) in Scranton where he produced technical drawings for instructional texts on a variety of subjects, including mechanical drawing. There will be a reception on Tuesday October 25 at 6PM in the Heritage Room.

6. International

International Student and Scholar Services

We have a total of 54 International students from 16 different countries arrived on campus in fall 2016. Of these 31 are degree seeking (10 undergraduate and 21 graduate students) and 23 exchange students (18 undergraduate students and 5 graduate students).

Study Abroad

Fourteen University students are studying abroad in Fall 2016. They are in 9 different countries. Currently we have 67 students planning to study abroad in spring 2017.

A pilot program The University of Scranton in Cochabamba, Bolivia will run this summer. Seven to ten students are expected to spend six weeks in Cochabamba participating in an intensive Spanish program. This gives the University its first presence abroad. Marquette University will list the program as a preferred program.

7. Office of Research and Sponsored Programs:

Twenty-three sabbatical applications were submitted and will be reviewed at the October meeting of the Faculty Research Committee. The internal research grant applications will be reviewed at the November meeting.

On September 16th ORSP and OEA sponsored an Undergraduate Research Fair. The fair brought together faculty mentors from different disciplines and students interested in working on a research project with a faculty mentor.

ORSP announced to the campus community the availability of funding to promote high-quality faculty-mentored experiences in research and scholarship for undergraduate students. Proposals supporting new faculty-student research projects that focus on the creation of an undergraduate research experience for the student resulting in measurable student learning outcomes will be considered.

ORSP will continue to offer stipends for faculty grant writing during intersession and summer. In addition, support for costs associated with grant-writing workshops and/or funding agencies will be available.

8. Career Development:

One hundred and six (106) organizations registered for the fall Career Expo. From that pool, 24 graduate/professional schools and 79 employers were represented. The number of students participating increased from 336 last year to 520 this year.