

TO: Faculty Senate

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

DATE: April 5, 2024

RE: Provost Report

NEW NAME FOR PCPS

Rev. Joseph Marina, S.J., President of The University of Scranton, has announced that the Board of Trustees has approved the renaming of the Panuska College of Professional Studies to the “Leahy College of Health Sciences,” and the renaming of the “Commons” and Faculty/Student Research Program to the “Rev. J.A. Panuska, S.J., Commons” and the “Rev. J. A. Panuska, S.J., Faculty/Student Research Program,” in honor of the late, longest-serving President in the University’s history.

“Since its founding in the mid-1980s as the College of Health, Education and Human Resources, and later Panuska College of Professional Studies, the College’s academic offerings have increasingly coalesced around health science disciplines. The recent movement of the Education Department to the University’s College of Arts and Sciences creates the opportunity for greater clarity of purpose,” said Father Marina.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

We are beginning the process to construct the University’s next strategic plan for 2025 and beyond. The University Planning Committee will be steering this process, which will include opportunities for all members of the University committee to share their input. This spring, Kate Yerkes, Assistant Provost for Planning & Institutional Effectiveness and I will be visiting the Student, Staff, and Faculty Senates to share information and gather preliminary ideas and suggestions about topics that should be considered as part of the planning process. Faculty and staff may also contribute ideas via a strategic planning survey, distributed via email, which will remain open through April 19th. Work will continue through the fall semester as drafts of the new plan are prepared, with review and refinement to continue through the spring. Our goal is to present a new strategic plan to the Board of Trustees for approval in May 2025. Questions, comments, and suggestions can be directed to myself, Kate, or to the University Planning Committee through its Faculty Senate representatives.

STATE BOARD OF NURSING

The new Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program, Psychiatric Mental Health Doctor of Nursing Practice program and the Post-Master’s Certificate program were approved by the State Board of Nursing on March 6, 2024. All programs will be offered fully on-line beginning in Fall term 2025.

RANK and TENURE

Please join me in congratulating our faculty colleagues who received promotion or tenure this year. I am grateful to all of the Board on Rank and Tenure, deans, chair, department members and other faculty who participated in this thoughtful and rigorous review process.

Below are the 2024/2025 Rank and Tenure results effective August 26, 2024

Dr. Michael Azar	Theology/RS	Professor
Dr. Michael Fennie	Chemistry	Professor
Dr. Debra Fetherman	Health and Human Performance	Professor
Dr. Jason Graham	Math	Professor
Dr. David Salerno	Accounting	Professor
Dr. Ben Willis	Counseling/HS	Professor
Dr. Sinchul Back	Cybercrime, Criminal Justice & Sociology	Associate
Dr. Hope Baylow	Health and Human Performance	Associate
Prof. Marleen Cloutier	Library	Associate
Dr. Nathaniel Frissell	Physics and Electrical Engineering	Associate
Prof. Ian O'Hara	Library	Associate
Prof. Colleen Farry	Library	Associate/Tenure
Dr. Anne Royer	Biology	Associate/Tenure
Dr. Anthony Carusotto	Physical Therapy	Tenure
Dr. Chris Haw	Theology/RS	Tenure
Dr. Jong-Hyun Son	Biology	Tenure
Dr. Billie Tadros	English & Theatre	Tenure

DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSON ELECTIONS

The results of the elections for nine department chairs are listed below:

- Accounting Dr. Douglas Boyle
- Communication & Media Dr. Stacy Smulowitz
- Counseling/Human Services Dr. Rebecca Dalgin
- Health & Human Performance Dr. Debra Fetherman
- History Dr. Adam Pratt (acting chair for AY 2024-2025)
- Nursing Dr. Mary Jane DiMattio
- Occupational Therapy Dr. Carol Coté
- Psychology Dr. John Norcross (acting chair Spring 2025)
- World Languages/Cultures Dr. Marzia Caporale

FULBRIGHT

Fulbright award winners for the 2024-25 year are likely to be announced by the Fulbright organization by the end of April. We have two students at the semi-finalist stage. One for Study/Research in Rwanda; and one for an English Teaching Assistantship in Spain.

Students wishing to apply for Fulbright awards for the 2025-26 year will start their applications this spring and complete them by September 2024.

FACULTY SEARCHES

To date we have hired fourteen new faculty and searches continue. Below is the list of faculty hired since the March Faculty Senate meeting.

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

GRADUATE & ACADEMIC SERVICES

In order to better serve and support graduate students we have created a gathering and study space specifically for graduate students called The Grad HUB. Donated funds have been used to furnish the HUB, located in McGurrian 152, with several areas of soft seating, small group study tables, a large group study table with built-in outlets, and tables and seating for individual study. The space design includes white boards for group work and charging stations to accommodate numerous electronic devices.

On April 5th we hosted a Graduate Student Social in the new Grad Hub for all graduate students online and on-campus. Graduate Program Directors and Deans were also invited to attend.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Clavius Awards

Dr. Jessica Nolan

Dr. Janice Voltzow *Envisioning the Future of “Ecological Education” at the University of Scranton*

Dr. Ovidiu Cocieru

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Dr. JoyAnna Hopper

Dr. Paul Sampson

Dr. Sinchul Back

Dr. Jason Graham *Artificial Intelligence (AI) Education & Workforce Training: Safe, Secure and Trustworthy Development and Use of AI*

Dr. Mark Fenner

Dr. Jeh-Hyun Cho

2024 President’s Fellowship for Summer Research Grants

Dr. Vincent Farallo/Michael Howard *The effects of an Alkaloid-based diet on metabolic rate in the poison frog species *Ranitomeya Variabilis**

Dr. Timothy Foley/Grace McDonald	<i>Investigation of Cytoskeletal Protein Hydrophobicity in the Brain</i>
Dr. Spencer Galen/Brian White	<i>An Investigation into the Abundance and Diversity of Wolbachia in Blood-feeding Disease Vectors in Northeastern Pennsylvania</i>
Dr. Christopher Howey/Brandon King	<i>Metabolic Rates of Red-backed Salamanders Inhabiting Thermally Contrasting Landscapes: Impacts of Prescribed Fire</i>
Dr. Jessica Nolan/Gabrielle Jamieson	<i>Using social norms to reduce the stigmatization of mental illness and self-disclosure</i>
Dr. Marc Seid/Noah Abdulqawi	<i>The effect of memantine on the extinction of drug-seeking behavior in <i>Camponotus floridanus</i></i>
Dr. Robert Waldeck/Madelyne Gasper	<i>Investigating the Role of the Telencephalon on the Startle Response in Goldfish, <i>Carassius auratus</i></i>

Ethics Across the Curriculum Grants

Congratulations to the following recipients of our inaugural Ethics Across the Curriculum Faculty Development Grants:

Dr. Patrick Clark
 Dr. Tracey Collins
 Dr. Teresa Conte
 Dr. Rita DiLeo
 Dr. Ahmed Gomaa and Dr. Yibai Lee
 Dr. JoyAnna Hopper
 Dr. Christian Krokus
 Dr. Andrew LaZella
 Dr. Patrick Orr
 Dr. Brian Snee
 Prof. Laurie Valunas
 Dr. Janice Voltzow

GLOBAL INITIATIVES ***Study Abroad***

Faculty-led Study Abroad

Faculty-led Study Abroad in Spring 2024 and Summer 2024 include:

March 2024	United Kingdom	Dr Melissa Anyiwo and Dr Christopher Gillett	Undergraduate course – History
April 2024	Slovakia	Dr Dan West and Dr Steve Szydlowski	Graduate course – Health Administration
May 2024	Greece	Dr Joan Grossman and Dr Andrew Venezia	Undergraduate course – Kinesiology
June 2024	South Korea	Dr Michael Jenkins and Dr Sinchul Back	Undergraduate course – Criminal Justice

Spring 2024 Semester Study Abroad Students

- In the Spring 2024 semester, we have 27 students studying abroad on Spring semester programs and 2 students completing their academic year abroad.
- The students' host university sites include Barcelona (4 students); Madrid (5); Florence (5); Rome (5); Milan (2); London (4); Edinburgh (2); Buenos Aires (1); and Tokyo (1).

Forecast for Summer and Fall 2024 Study Abroad

- 19 students plan to go abroad this Summer on faculty-led courses in May/June.
- About 30 students plan to study abroad at partner universities this Summer.
- About 15 students plan to study abroad for the Fall semester. (Typically, our Fall numbers are smaller than Spring because Spring is more-often recommended for KSOM and PCPS majors due to class schedules.)
- Numbers will be more defined after our Summer and Fall study abroad application deadline of April 15th.

International

57 International students are registered to graduate May 2024 (1 Doctorate, 54 Master's and 2 Bachelor's)

70 currently participating in Post-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) (as of April 4, graduating students are still within their application window)

64 Regular OPT (12 month)

- 33 Approved
- 26 Pending
- 5 Requested

6 STEM Extension OPT (24 months)

253 Total number of F1 students with an "Active" Record in SEVIS as of Apr. 4

11 total number of J1 Exchange Visitors with an "Active" Record in SEVIS as of Apr. 4 (not all J1 scholars who are hosted by the U. of Scranton on a U. of Scranton Immigration record in SEVIS, 6 scholars hosted here have their SEVIS record with another institution)

OSSS/CTE REPORT

The CTLE website has been divided and redesigned into compatible [CTE](#) and [OSSS](#) websites. Additional resources have been added to the sites including additional plagiarism and artificial intelligence resources website.

Presentations/Workshops

CTE created two videos,

- “Accommodate Overview” and “Brightspace Basics” for onboarding new adjunct faculty.
- Brian Snapp presented “Making Your Brightspace Course Accessible” to several faculty.
- CTE offered Brightspace workshops: *Basics, Exams, Gradebook, Assignments, Discussion Forums, Rubrics and Turnitin.com.*
- Brian Snapp and Corinne Nulton provided additional plagiarism and artificial intelligence resources for faculty via our CTE website. In addition, they are currently evaluating ZeroGPT, Turnitin, Copyleaks and Sapling for their effectiveness in detecting AI in writing.
- Corinne Nulton offered the “Assessment Strategies for Artificial Intelligence” workshop. Nine faculty attended and discussion was productive.

Updates

- Administration of the course evaluation system has gone well. CTE is in collaboration with IT on some suggested improvements to the daily administration and reporting. These are mostly focused on converting documentation to PDF. These are pending:
 - a. Create filter to query and generate Summary Comparative Analyses (SCA’s) by department, giving deans the ability to disseminate SCA’s to chairs more efficiently.
 - b. In collaboration with the Provost’s Office, create a filter to generate SCA’s by individual faculty. These may then be uploaded to secure Sharepoint folders for access by the Provost’s Office. This will assist in the rank & tenure process.
 - c. In collaboration with IT, create a query to generate course evaluation data by individual program. This data will be valuable for accreditation or assessment of programs.
 - d. In collaboration with IT, create a course evaluation summary including the comparison groups and comments in one PDF. This will assist faculty preparing electronic dossiers for rank & tenure.
- Our student course evaluation system continues to run smoothly and garners high response rates from students. Spring 2024 is currently a non-mandatory semester for most full-time faculty.
- Additional efforts to combat plagiarism include our license for Turnitin.com. We currently have just over 100 instructors using the Turnitin integration with Brightspace. There has been an increase in total Turnitin paper submissions from 27,000 in the Spring semester 2024 to 36,000 in the Fall of 2024. 10% of the fall paper submissions show a

similarity index of greater than 50%. Disclaimer: this could be due to actual plagiarism or the configuration of the dropbox further.

OSSS Statistics

OSSS Statistics SP'24 (through 4/2/2024)	
Tutoring Requests	432 distinct students (for 631 different courses)
Tutoring Sessions	2379 total tutoring sessions (2780 SP'23)
	~1850 via WC online for MATH, CHEM, BIOL, PHYS, CMPS, NURS, ECO, OT 231
	~529 via tutor request form (all other subjects)
Drop-in Tutoring	280 visits for MATH, CHEM, PHYS
Writing Center	227 distinct clients (w/ 446 total sessions) 15% increase from SP'23
Academic Coaching	385 appointments
Exams Proctored	720 exams (790 SP '23)
Success: Gonzaga + AP students	185 meetings

Other Statistics:

- 283 Tutors are employed by OSSS.
- 121 Note-takers are employed by OSSS.
- 100 students receive note-taking accommodations.

WEINBERG MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The **2024 Environmental Art Show** will be held from April 15-24 in the Charles Kratz Scranton Heritage Room on the 5th floor of the Weinberg Memorial Library. The exhibit is open to the public during library operational hours. Our opening event, *An Artist Talk with Theresa O'Connor*, will be held on April 15th at 5pm.

The Heritage Room is exhibiting “**Scranton Stories**” Oral History Interviews and Photographs through April 21. The exhibit, partly funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, displays portraits by photographer Byron Maldonado. The exhibit features personal statements of each interviewee excerpted from their evocative interviews, which give voice to a broad array of Scranton experiences. These stories connect them, and our city, to the nation’s ongoing story. A public program featuring project staff and interviewees was presented on April 4.

The Library is pleased to offer free passes to the Everhart Museum for students, staff, and faculty. Anyone interested in borrowing museum passes can do so at the Library Services Desk. The passes allow groups of up to 25 to visit the museum for free, so bringing your class to the museum is also possible.

The Library will **celebrate Scholarship Month** in May 2024 by featuring recent scholarly publications and presentations in an exhibit hosted in the Charles Kratz Scranton Heritage Room. We request copies of your scholarship produced since June 1, 2023, or prior work yet to be shared in a Scholarship Month exhibit. We will accept submissions up until April 30, 2024. A reception hosted by the Board of Trustees will be held in the Heritage Room ON Wednesday, May 8, 2024, from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. All faculty are encouraged to attend.

Our Common Home: Landscapes from The University of Scranton Art Collection will be exhibited in the Hope Horn Art Gallery from April 5 through May 3, 2024. The Curator's Lecture will be at 5:00 pm on Friday, April 5, in Brennan 228. The exhibit reception, which is open to the public, will be in the Art Gallery (Hyland 407) from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on April 5.

CURRICULUM APPROVALS

New Course

	<i>Date Posted</i>
NEUR 232/BIOL 232: Neurogenetics	12/22/23
HAD 518: Healthcare Research and Analytics	1/30/24
HAD 524: Health Care Law & Ethics	1/30/24
PHIL 351J: Nature, Freedom, Morality	2/9/24
PHIL 353J: Existential-Postmodernism	2.9/24
S/CJ 295: Global Crime, Justice & Security	2/9/24
HAD 530: Leadership and Organization Behavior	3/6/24
PSIO 290: Core Concepts in Physiology Seminar	3/5/24
HIST 250J: Science & Society	3/14/24
S/CJ 390: Career Seminar I	3/18/24

Course Change

SLP 581C: Speech-Language-Hearing Assessment & Intervention II	1/30/24
COMM 235: Introduction to Social Media Strategies	12/20/23
ABA 545: Basic Behavior Analysis	2/1/24
ABA 599: Thesis	2/1/24
ABA 600: Concepts and Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis	2/1/24
ABA 605: Philosophical Underpinnings of Applied Behavior Analysis	2/1/24
ABA 610: Ethics in Applied Behavior Analysis	2/1/24
ABA 615: Behavior Assessment in Applied Behavior Analysis	2/1/24
ABA 625: Behavior Change Procedures in Applied Behavior Analysis	2/1/24
ABA 635: Personnel Supervision and Management Interventions	2/1/24
ABA 640: Measurement and Experimental Design in Applied Behavior Analysis	2/1/24
HPRO 330: Research Methods in Health Promotion	1/30/24
HPRO 480 Internship in Health Promotion	1/30/24
CMPS 213: Sophomore Colloquia I	2/9/24
CMPS 314: Junior Colloquia II	2/9/24
CMPS 374: Fundamentals of Software Engineering	2/9/24
CMPS 413: Senior Colloquia I	2/9/24
CMPS 414: Senior Colloquia II	2/9/24
CMPS 415: Colloquia Completion	2/9/24
CMPS 416: Colloquia Completion	2/9/24
PSIO 220: Advanced Human Anatomy & Physiology I	3/5/24
PSIO 221: Advanced Human Anatomy & Physiology II	3/5/24
ACC 502: Accounting for Management	3/14/24
ENLT 255: African-American Literature	2/9/24
HAD 506: Healthcare Economics and Policy	2/20/24

HAD 509: Administration Issues	2/20/24
HAD 512: Medical Practice Administration	2/20/24
HAD 513: Long Term Care Administration	2/20/24
HAD 515: Healthcare Planning and Marketing	2/20/24
HAD 522: Healthcare Operation and Quality	2/20/24
HAD 523: IT Management	2/20/24
HAD 526: Grant Writing and Management	2/20/24
HAD 528: Nursing Home Administration	2/20/24
HAD 529: Assisted Living Administration	2/20/24
HAD 540: Epidemiology and Population Health Management	2/20/24
HAD 541: Population Health and Systems Science	2/20/24
HAD 542: Population Health Science: An Interdisciplinary Approach	2/20/24

Course Deletion

OT 440: Management & Supervision	1/30/24
OT 460: Occupational Therapy Practice III: Physical Rehab	1/30/24
OT 460L: Occupational Therapy Practice III: Physical Rehab Lab	1/30/24
OT 461: Occupational Therapy Practice IV: Geriatrics	1/30/24
OT 461L: Occupational Therapy Practice IV: Geriatrics Lab	1/30/24
OT 475: Advanced Therapeutic Techniques	1/30/24
OT 475L: Advanced Therapeutic Techniques Lab	1/30/24
OT 494 : Evidence Based Research in OT	1/30/24
OT 501: Leadership in OT	1/30/24
OT 502: Advanced OT Theory	1/30/24
OT 560: Advanced Interpersonal Dynamics	1/30/24
OT 560L: Advanced Interpersonal Dynamics Lab	1/30/24
OT 575: Community Practice in Occupational Therapy	1/30/24
OT 597: Faculty Research Internship I	1/30/24
OT 598: Faculty Research Internship II	1/30/24
COMM 250 : Principal Communication Competencies	12/20/24
COMM 279: Communicating Data	12/20/24
COMM 331: Mass Media Management	12/20/24
COMM 334: Broadcast Programming	12/20/24
COMM 422: Educational Television	12/20/24
COMM 425: Cable Television	12/20/24
COMM 426: International Broadcasting	12/20/24
PSIO 220L: Advanced Human Anatomy & Physiology I Lab	12/9/24
PSIO 221L: Advanced Human Anatomy & Physiology II Lab	12/9/24
PS 223: Politics of Ireland	12/9/24
PS 296: Irish Political Culture	12/9/24

Program Change

Operations Management Major	1/17/24
Operations Management Minor	12/5/23
Operations Management MBA Specialization	1/17/24
Health Administration Executive Certificate	1/30/24

MHA Program	1/30/24
MS in Health Informatics	1/30/24
MS in Health Informatics - Data Analytics Specialization	1/30/24
MS in Health Informatics- Health Administration Specialization	1/30/24
ABA Program	2/1/24
Biology	2/9/24
Computer Science	2/9/24
Information Technology	2/9/24
Applied Computing	2/9/24
SJLA Program	2/9/24
Mathematical Sciences	2/9/24
International Studies	3/4/24
Lifespan Development Concentration	3/4/24
Associate in Arts	3/4/24
Liberal Studies, BS (CAS)	3/4/24
Common Curriculum - CAS First Year	3/4/24