

TO: Faculty Senate Report

FROM: Jeff Gingerich  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: April 1, 2022

RE: Provost's Report for April

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## **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion**

We are pleased to announce that the final version of the DEI strategic plan for the University is now available on the website: <https://www.scranton.edu/about/diversity-inclusion/strategic-plan/index.shtml>. Please read through this comprehensive document. Our goal is to continue this important dialogue and take necessary actions to make our campus and our University a fair, just and welcoming environment..

## **Rankings**

Several of our graduate programs ranked among the best in the nation according to *U.S. News & World Report's* 2023 edition of "Best Graduate Schools." Scranton's MBA Specialty in accounting ranked No. 14 in the nation, tying with Harvard University, Arizona State University and Ohio State University in the *U.S. News* full-time MBA program ranking. Scranton's MBA specialty programs in business analytics ranked No. 29 and finance ranked No. 34 in America in the ranking published by *U.S. News* online March 29.

In addition, our graduate program in nursing ranked no. 95 as its part-time MBA program ranked No. 100 out of all such program nationally.

Earlier this year, *U.S. News'* "Best Online Programs" publication ranked the our online master's degree programs in business (excluding MBA) at No. 55 and its online MBA program at No. 98 in the nation. *U.S. News* also ranked us at No. 65 in the country for "Best Online MBA Programs for Veterans."

In other rankings published by *U.S. News*, we are ranked among the top 10 "Best Regional Universities in the North" for 28 consecutive years. We are ranked No. 5 in the 2022 edition of the guidebook. *U.S. News* also ranked us No. 14 in its category for "Best Undergraduate Teaching."

## **Faculty Searches**

We have successfully completed seven faculty searches.

Pedro Monteiro	Assistant Professor	Economics/Finance
Anthony Betancourt	Assistant Professor	Psychology
Mojib Saei	Assistant Professor	Physics & Engineering
Joe Brague	Assistant Professor	Biology
Laura Chavez	Assistant Professor	Nursing
Wesam AlRamadeen	Instructor	Operations & Analytics
Riddhiman Medhi	Assistant Professor	Chemistry

## **Curriculum Approvals**

### **Course Change**

	<b>Date Posted</b>
BIOL 379: Biostatistics	1/25/22
ENGR 250: Engineering Mechanics-Statics	2/21/22
ENGR 253L: Computer-Aided Design	1/25/22
PSYC 325: Abnormal Child-Psychology	1/25/22
PSYC 363: Behavior Modification	1/25/22
PSYC 366: Forensic and Legal Psychology	1/25/22

### **Program Change**

Actuarial Science Minor	1/25/22
Asian Studies	1/25/22
Latin American Studies	1/25/22
Latin Americana Studies Concentration	1/25/22
Mathematical Sciences: Actuarial Science Track	2/21/22
Mathematical Sciences: Biology Track	2/21/22
Mathematical Sciences: Computer & Information Science Track	2/21/22
Mathematical Sciences: Data Science Track	2/21/22
Mathematical Sciences: Physical Science Track	2/21/22

## **Updates**

### ***Affordable Learning Grants***

The Library has committed to funding up to 4 Affordable Learning Grants for Fall 2022 courses. Applications are due by April 29, 2022. The Library awarded two Affordable Learning Grants in the last funding round.

Successful applicants commit to replacing for-cost course materials with either Library-provided materials or Open Educational Resources in one or more of their courses. The goal of the program is to increase affordability for Scranton students and to make classrooms more equitable so that all students have the same level of access to materials.

### ***Faculty Scholarship Exhibit***

The Weinberg Memorial Library will celebrate Scholarship Month at The University of Scranton in May 2022. The celebration, which is normally held annually in the Heritage Room, features recent faculty publications. Please help us celebrate Scholarship Month by sending copies of your scholarly works (e.g., books, chapters, off-prints, articles, reviews, abstracts, conference programs, pamphlets, and notices) to the Dean's Office of the Weinberg Memorial Library.

We seek publications produced since June 1st, 2019, or prior publications not already shared in a Scholarship Month exhibit. Please send your items by April 25, 2022, and indicate if you would like to donate the items to the University Archives or have them returned after the exhibit.

### ***High Response Rate on MISO Survey***

The Library (and IT) are grateful for the high response rate on the MISO Survey among all three populations surveyed (undergraduate, staff, and faculty). Currently, the results are being

processed. Over the summer the library faculty and administration will review the results of the survey and revise the Library's tactical plan to include action items that may come out of the survey. In addition, library administration and faculty will endeavor to respond, at least generally, to the comments on the Library's website by Fall 2022.

***Inaugural Conference on Ethics and Excellence in Public Service***

The Center for Ethics and Excellence in Public Service (CEEPS) will be hosting the Inaugural Conference on Ethics and Excellence in Public Service for public officials, leaders of nonprofit organizations and students on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The conference will conclude with a luncheon keynote address by author Craig Wheeland, Ph.D., a noted scholar in the area of public administration and senior vice president for academics and professor of public administration at Villanova University