

TO: Faculty Senate Report

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

DATE: December 3, 2021

RE: Provost's Report for December 2021

End of Semester updates

We are quickly coming to the end of the fall semester. I know this has been another challenging semester and I am deeply appreciative of faculty's work to get fully get back into the classroom, even while facing many personal challenges that come along with the pandemic.

- A reminder that no tests should be given scheduled during the week immediately preceding the first day of officially scheduled final exams. And no final exams should be administered to students prior to exam periods officially scheduled.
 - We have traditionally called the week before final exams "dead week". Students and faculty have recently asked for a new name (that is not so morbid). Any ideas for a new name for this week?! Suggestions are welcome.
- We continue to try to enforce the facemask policy on campus. We posted new signage on the LSC study rooms and are currently deciding whether to close the study rooms for the rest of the semester due to non-compliance. Opinions on this decision are welcome.
- I am sorry to announce that the traditional Provost Christmas Party will not be held this December due to the risks of virus transmission in a crowded indoor setting. We will assess conditions in the early part of the spring semester to see if it is possible to do a late holiday gathering.

Dean Searches

The University has secured the search firm, Hyatt-Fennel, to conduct all three current dean searches. The ad for all three positions will be posted next week.

- The Library Dean search committee (which has been advertised this past summer) will both be expanding the search pool while at the same time reviewing current applicants.
- The PCPS and KSOM ads have been posted and we will accept applications through the beginning of January. We hope to conclude these two searches by March 2022.

Faculty Searches

We have hired two new faculty for the 2022-2023 academic year. One tenure track position in Operations and Analytics and a faculty specialist in Occupational Therapy.

Student of Color Retention

Based on the feedback that has come out of Faculty Senate discussions in the past, I have asked Nick Truncale and the Retention Committee to prioritize their work on the retention of students of color. Thank you to Nick and the committee for giving this important question special consideration as we understand the reasons for a lower retention rate and work to make changes to support students of color on campus.

2022-2023 Sabbaticals

Congratulations to the following faculty who have been awarded well-deserved sabbaticals next year.

Fall 2022

Michael Bermudez (pre-tenure)
Sean Brennan
Shuhua Fan
Eric Plumer
Robert Waldeck

Spring 2023

Sufyan Baksh
Patrick Clark
Gary Kwiecinski
Julie Nastasi

Year 2022-2023

Maureen Carroll
Will Cohen
Jean Harris
Sharon Hudacek
Matt Meyer

Intersession/Summer 2023

Marleen Cloutier (pre-tenure)
Sheli Pratt-McHugh

Faculty Development

The Faculty Development Board reviewed applications for Intersession grants and awarded 8 grants to the following faculty:

Hope Baylow	<i>Voice Problems and Quality of Life of Individuals with Marfan Syndrome</i>
Joseph Pellegrino	<i>Quantification of the Physical Load and Physiological Strain on Division III Women's Basketball Players</i>
Abhijit Roy	<i>A Hierarchical Model of Social Justice Initiatives by the Jesuits: Embeddedness of Social Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation</i>
Janette Scardillo	<i>Utilizing best practice to implement simulation-based experiences in DPT curriculum</i>
Yamile Silva	<i>A Critical Edition of Dominican Writer Abigail Meja's Transatlantic Journalism</i>
Brian Snee	<i>Columbus Uncancelled: Reflective Rhetoric in the Third and Fourth Personae</i>
Hank Willenbrink	<i>The Wyoming Option: Will Arbery, Rod Dreher and Conservative Catholicism</i>

Updates

- Yamile Silva, Ph.D., has been accepted to the National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) and the United Kingdom's Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Spanish Paleography and Digital Humanities Institute. The NEH/AHRC joint initiatives seek to advance digital scholarship.

- **The University of Scranton** along with community partners recently was awarded a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to fund a 2-year project “Scranton’s Story, Our Nation’s Story” to explore Scranton’s history, culture, and role in the nation at large. The “Scranton’s Story, Our Nation’s Story” project dedicated website detailing the project’s eight themes, oral histories “Scranton Stories” project and humanities resources launched this week at scranton.edu/scrantonstory.