

TO: Faculty Senate Report

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

DATE: November 15, 2021

RE: Provost's Report for November

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### **COVID 19 Update**

Because COVID-19 cases remain high in Lackawanna and surrounding counties, we have extended our mask requirement and access restriction through Wednesday, November 24. We will continue to monitor both internal and external data, as well as follow CDC, federal and state guidelines to determine next steps for the mask requirement through the end of the semester. We continue to do what we can to monitor and enforce the facemask policy. We ask that all faculty, students and staff commit to taking care of our community in the spirit of our Jesuit tradition. We can get through this together as we have done since the beginning of the pandemic.

### **Updates on Dean Searches**

I look forward to the successful completion of three dean searches this year. While this obviously signifies a big transition in our academic leadership, I am confident that we will welcome new deans that will continue our tradition of academic excellence and innovation. And suddenly Dean Maldonado in CAS finds herself being the senior dean at the University!

The search committees for the KSOM and PCPS Deans have been formed:

#### **PCPS Dean Search Committee (David Marx, Chair):**

##### **Faculty Representatives:**

- Dr. Marian Farrell, Nursing
- Dr. Renee Hakim, Physical Therapy
- Dr. Ben Willis, Counseling and Human Services

##### **Administrative Representative:**

- Dr. David Marx, Associate Provost
- Julie Ferguson, Registrar

##### **Staff Representative:**

- Stephanie Adamec, Center for Health Education and Wellness

##### **Student Representative:**

- Rachael Gallagher

#### **KSOM Dean Search Committee (Michelle Maldonado, Chair):**

##### **Faculty Representatives:**

- Dr. Doug Boyle, Accounting
- Dr. Satya Chattopadhyay, Management/Marketing
- Dr. Steven Szydlowski, Health Administration

### **Administrative Representatives:**

- **Dr. Michelle Maldonado**, CAS Dean
- **Gerry Zaboski**, Enrollment and External Relations

### **Staff Representative:**

- **Donna Simpson**, Small Business Development Center

### **Student Representative:**

- **Vanessa Moylan**

We have secured the services of the search firm, Hyatt and Fennell, who will help us lead both searches to success. Both search committees are meeting soon and we will solicit input for the qualifications of the deans in order to develop the position profile and begin advertising.

The search for the Weinberg Library Dean continues. This position was advertised through the summer and we have received some applications but we have asked Hyatt and Fennell to also facilitate this search to see if we can expand the pool of candidates for this important position.

### **Faculty Searches**

We are currently conducting searches for seven tenure-track faculty positions, two open rank positions and one faculty specialist position.

### **Faculty Development**

- The Office of Community-Based Learning is accepting applications for the AY 2021-2022 application cycle of the **Faculty Initiatives Fund**. This provides an opportunity for faculty to request funding for costs related to **Community-Based Learning (CBL)** courses and/or academic-related community initiatives, including but not necessarily limited to CBL course-related materials, refreshments, transportation and/or CBL-related conference travel and registration fees. Each faculty member can submit up to two applications for combined awards of up to \$500 total per academic year. The funds must be used within the calendar year in which they are granted. Funding will be dispersed on a reimbursement basis.

Applications for the funding period will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. The application may be submitted as a scanned copy with signatures to [debra.fetherman@scranton.edu](mailto:debra.fetherman@scranton.edu) or as a hard copy to Debra Fetherman, 718 Edward Leahy Hall.

- The Diversity Initiatives Review Board is accepting applications for grants in support of creative, educational programs that **PROMOTE** diversity, provide opportunity for inter-cultural engagement, and expand opportunities for multicultural experiences for our community.

The Diversity Initiatives Fund is available to campus groups, departments or individuals seeking to promote a greater understanding of diversity through inclusive pedagogies, educational opportunities, multicultural activities and community outreach programs. The grant is intended to launch new, innovative, or educational opportunities for the University community. Recurring projects may apply for funding as well.

Student applicants and part-time employees are required to have a full-time staff or full-time faculty sponsor. Student Clubs are required to have approval of the club moderator and the Coordinator of Student Clubs and Organizations. Individual staff members and non-full-time faculty must obtain approval from their supervisor or department chair, respectively. Sponsorship or approval must be obtained prior to applying for the grant.

### **Rankings**

In September, [\*U.S. News & World Report\*](#) ranked *Scranton No. 5* among the “Best Regional Universities in the North” in the 2022 edition of their “Best Colleges” guidebook, marking the 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that *U.S. News* ranked Scranton among the top 10 universities in its category. *U.S. News* also ranked Scranton No. 14 in its category in its “Best Undergraduate Teaching” listing of the top colleges in the nation expressing “a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching;” No. 45 as a “Best Value Regional University in the North;” and No. 138 in its category in “Top Performers on Social Mobility.” In national rankings, *U.S. News* ranked Scranton No. 166 among America’s “Best Undergraduate Business Programs;” No. 185 among “Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs;” and No. 148 among the nation’s “Best Undergraduate Nursing Programs.”

### **Career Development**

The “First Destination Survey” report by Scranton’s Gerard R. Roche Center for Career Development is based on career success data obtained for 83% of the undergraduate class. This “knowledge rate,” or percentage of graduates for whom their career outcome is known, exceeds the National Association of College Employers recommended rate of 65 percent. The knowledge rate for members of the University’s graduate class of 2020 was 74 percent.

Of those who reported, 99% of The University of Scranton’s class of 2020 graduates at the undergraduate level, and 98 percent of class of 2020 members at the graduate level, reported being successful in their choice of career path of either employment or pursuing additional education within 12 months of graduation.

Fifty percent of graduates with an undergraduate degree had the goal of obtaining full-time employment and 99 percent of graduates succeed with that goal. Forty-five percent of graduates had the goal of attending graduate or professional school and 99 percent of graduates successfully achieved that goal.

### **Curriculum Approvals**

#### **New Courses**

	<b>Date Posted</b>
ESL 501: Academic English I	5/7/21
HIST 131X: The Jesuits and World History	9/24/21

#### **Course Change**

OIM 351	10/4/21
NURS 262: Pharmacology I	2/1/21
BUAN 578: Business Intelligence	9/29/21
THTR 213: Design for Theatre	11/5/21

### **Course Deletion**

ENLT 133X: Marx, Freud, Literature	11/5/21
ENLT 212: Masters of Darkness	11/5/21
ENLT 230: American Romanticism	11/5/21
ENLT 241: British Literature: Restoration and the 18 <sup>th</sup> Century	11/5/21
ENLT 342: Renaissance Poetry and Prose	11/5/21
ENLT 349: Restoration and 18 <sup>th</sup> Century Poetry	11/5/21
ENLT 350: Major Works; American Romantics	11/5/21
ENLT 351: Transcendentalists	11/5/21
ENLT 353: Major Works: American Realists	11/5/21

### **Program Change**

MBA Specialization in BUAN	9/29/21
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### **Updates**

- Bryan Crable, Ph.D. was awarded a \$198,265 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for a two-year study of the impact of plastic debris on the physiology of freshwater microorganisms in Lake Lacawac. In addition to Dr. Crable's role as principal investigator, the research project will involve and train approximately eight undergraduate students in field, laboratory and computer simulated investigations.
- The CAS Associate Dean's Search launched on November 3, 2021.
- The Associates in Liberal Arts, Dallas SCI Program received approval to expand to 3 courses per semester which will accelerate the program.
- CAS Dean's Ambassador Program, a student advisory board, will launch in December 2021.