

**TO: The Faculty Senate**

**FROM: Donald R. Boomgaarden, Ph.D.**  
**Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs**

**DATE: May 4, 2015**

**SUBJECT: Provost's Report for May 8, 2015**

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**I. FACULTY SEARCHES:**

As of today, we have filled the following faculty positions:

Matthew	Socha	Assistant Professor	Biology
Katherine	Stumpo	Assistant Professor	Chemistry
Hyuk Jun	Cheong	Instructor	Communication
Susan	Boafo-Arthur	Assistant Professor	Counseling & Human Services
Katherine	Purswell	Assistant Professor	Counseling & Human Services
Catherine	Richmond-Cullen	Assistant Professor	Education
Peter	Gil-Sheridan	Visiting Assistant Professor	English & Theatre
Michael	Landram	Assistant Professor	Exercise Science & Sport
William	Miller	Faculty Specialist	HA/HR
Adam	Pratt	Assistant Professor	History
Duane	Armitage	Assistant Professor	Philosophy
Juan	Serna	Assistant Professor	Physics
Patrick	Orr	Assistant Professor	Psychology
Mahri	Leonard-Fleckman	Assistant Professor	Theology/Religious Studies

**II. REORGANIZATION OF CGCE:**

In June of last year President Quinn announced a broad plan to integrate the certificate, undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs of the College of Graduate and Continuing Education into their host academic college or school. On April 22, 2015 the University moved forward with this plan. The former Dean, Jeffrey Welsh, will return to the faculty, and decanal duties related to curriculum, admissions, course scheduling, class sizes, program development will be shifted by applicable program area to the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Kania School of Management and Panuska College of Professional Studies.

**III. OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT:**

The OEA director and faculty fellows offered guidance for programs and faculty to improve the assessment of student learning; a number of initiatives were offered to reinforce the process for the faculty. Academic departments in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) sent representatives to assessment sessions and consultation with OEA for program outcome assessment. Dr. Ledford-Miller chaired the committee on General Education Assessment

and developed a GE Assessment Plan for the University. The plan was endorsed by the Faculty Senate and will be implemented this summer. Several groups were convened to examine the assessment needs of High Impact Practices (HIPS) at the University. These HIPS are defined as “*a set of widely tested teaching and learning strategies and programs that—when done well—have substantial educational benefits, especially for traditionally underserved students. The elements of good teaching and learning embedded in these practices can be applied in many settings, including in traditional classrooms as well as special programs, and in co-curricular settings*” (Hansen, MJ, Baker, S, Johnson, KE (2014). Implementing & Assessing High Impact Practices: Assessment Institute, Indianapolis, IN). The work on assessment of the *First-Year Seminar*, and several GE competencies: *Information Literacy, Oral Communication, and the Writing program* are underway, in addition to individual program assessment projects. Dr. DiMattio, OEA Director, developed a Comprehensive Plan for Assessment of Student learning, and presented it to several groups including the Assessment Advisory Committee [AAC] and the Faculty Senate. The plan will be implemented in May and will be linked to the Strategic Plan.

Other ongoing activities to promote assessment included:

- OEA Faculty Grant Opportunity for Assessment of Student Learning: The Office of Educational Assessment (OEA) awarded grant support for interested faculty members to attend assessment workshops at disciplinary conferences.
- ePlatform for Assessment: The OEA committee to select an electronic platform for assessment hosted vendor presentations on campus during February and March. Participant survey results are under review with plans to select a vendor during the next academic year (2015/2016). In the interim, Mr. Richard Walsh serves the OEA as an assessment analyst.
- CAS Program Assessment Plans: The Annual Report process for CAS (College of Arts & Sciences) was revised and formatted to allow for electronic submission of Program Assessment Plans and Program Assessment evidence. The reports will be reviewed during the summer. The OEA worked closely with CAS departments to implement the three-year plan to assess all program learning outcomes.
- Conference Participation: A group of faculty and staff will represent the University at Drexel in the fall at the second annual assessment conference: *Assessment for Student Success: Building Academic Innovation & Renewal*. The OEA will fund this initiative.
- Director of General Education Assessment: CAS Faculty will be invited to apply to serve in this position to direct GE assessment and work closely with the Director of OEA and the Faculty Assessment Fellows. A comprehensive plan for assessment of general education is a critical aspect of the comprehensive assessment plan.
- Indirect Assessment Efforts: OEA worked closely with Institutional Research staff to examine results of student and faculty surveys that reflect the students’ achievement of the Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs), and planned for ongoing survey review to best capture these results.

#### IV. FULBRIGHTS:

Dr. Susan Trussler has informed me that two students have been awarded Fulbright Scholarships.

- Benjamin Turcea, who will graduate with majors in International Studies and Philosophy, has been awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Mongolia. He will spend the year teaching English and American Culture at the Mongolian University of Life Sciences.
- Brian Entler, who graduated with a BS in 2013 and will receive his MS in Biochemistry this year, has been awarded a Fulbright in Biology to Macquarie University in Australia. He will conduct research on “Multimodal Learning in Bees: Mechanisms of Choice and Decision”.

#### V. OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS:

*Summer Presidential Scholarships:*

The Faculty Research Committee has awarded the following Summer Presidential Scholarships:

- Dr. Scott Breloff, Exercise Science/ Gabriella Opalkowski - *The Effect of Fatigue on Gait While Walking on Different Sloped Surfaces in Flip-Flops, Sneakers and Bare Foot*
- Dr. Jody DeRitter, English/ Olivia Gillespie - *Rewriting Time in the Works of Toni Morrison and William Faulkner*
- Dr. Michael Fennie, Chemistry/ Philip Gilmartin - *Exploring a Light-Induced, Radical-Mediated Synthesis of Nitrile-Tagged Amino Acid Derivatives*
- Dr. Timothy Foley, Chemistry/ Max Cornell - *Methylglyoxal: an Alternative Metabolic Approach for Cancer Treatment*
- Dr. Jason Graham, Mathematic/ Megan Hudock - *A Mathematical Model of Mechanical Destruction of the Articular Cartilage in the Knee Joint*
- Barry Kuhle, Ph.D. Psychology/ Sara Brezinski - *To Swipe Left or Right: Sex Difference in Tinder Profiles*
- Dr. Robert Smith, Biology/ Ryan Brown - *Determining the Effect of Time Since Capture on the Plasma Metabolite Concentrations in Migratory Landbirds*
- Dr. Terrence Sweeney, Biology/ Norman Frederick - *Mathematical Modeling of Cardiovascular Dysfunction*

*Internal Research Grants:*

- Michael Allison, Political Science Department - *Central American Revolutionary Ties: The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unit (URNG)*
- Thomas Hogan, Psychology Department - *IBM SPSS Amos Software for SEM and CFA*
- Gary Kwiecinski, Biology Department - *Defining New Mammalian Sensory Structure of the Facial Skin of Phyllostomid Bats*
- Nathan Lefler, Theology/Religious Studies Department - *Fiction as a Vehicle of Divine Grace in the Work of Flannery O'Connor*

- Yibai Li, Operations and Information Management Department - *The Costs and Benefits of Health Care on Social Media: A Net-Valence Model*
- Marc Seid, Biology Department - *Pharmacology Manipulation of Queen Determination in the Bee *Megalopta Genalis**,
- Yamile Silva, World Languages and Cultures/Latin American Studies Department - *Relation of the Pedro de Ursua's Expedition by Jeronimo de Ypori*
- Jamie Trnka, World Languages and Cultures Department - *Exile and World Literary Circulation*
- Loreen Wolfer, Sociology/Criminal Justice Department - *Where Do We Draw the Line? Norms of Facebook Content Disclosure, Wave 2*

## VI. COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS:

### *The Panuska College of Professional Studies*

- Prof. Lamanna, Prof. Pesavento and Dr. Conte began a partnership with the Scranton School District and NEIU 19 on Literacy, and introduced the local health care physicians on the Reach Out and Read program. On April 22<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Reid Lyon, a neuro physicist and national expert on reading presented an all-day conference to 140 attendees including government officials, superintendents and Reading Specialists from 17 school districts.
- Counseling & Human Services department had a successful CORE accreditation site visit, for our graduate program in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling.
- On April 16, 2015 the Department of Education received approval from PA Department of Education regarding modification to the BS degree. The modifications create conditions for accelerated graduate programs. We will now be able to offer a 4 plus 1 degree for a B.S. in PreK-4 and a M.S. in Special Education.
- RN to BSN program in collaboration with Geisinger CMC will be offered by our Nursing Department at Geisinger CMC with the minimum enrollment of 12 RN participants.
- We are exploring opportunities to increase partnerships with St. Joseph's Center.

### *College of Arts and Sciences*

- Congratulations to Ben Degler, Nathan Williams, Timothy Thomas, Luke Alonso "The Royal Engineers" who placed third in the finals of the Intel-Cornell Cup competition held in Cape Canaveral. They competed with 22 other finalist teams, from mostly large research 1 schools.
- We have just received notice from the Taiwan Ministry of Education that our grant application for a new Mandarin-Chinese teacher to support the K-16 Chinese language program for the following academic year has been awarded.
- Four Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology majors recently presented their research at the American Society for Cell Biology (ASC) annual conference in Philadelphia.

## VII. CURRICULUM APPROVALS:

<b>New Course</b>	<b>Date Posted</b>
NURS 504: Anatomy for Nurse Anesthesia	2/11/15
MATH: 368: Cryptography	3/12/15
EDUC 102: Educational Skills in a Global Society	4/28/15
OT 5XX: Evaluation Intervention for Visual Impairment in Older Adults	2/11/15
EE/PHYS 475: Digital Image Processing	2/24/15
BIOL/NEUR 368: Neuroethology	4/7/15
<b>Course Change</b>	
ERDG 531: Children and Adolescent Literature Worldwide	2/11/15
MATH 204: Introduction to Statistics	2/24/15
COMM 320: Reporting	2/4/15
<b>Course Deletion</b>	
EDUC 257: Family Collaboration & Diversity	10/17/15
<b>Program Changes:</b>	
BS/MA in Accountancy	12/10/14
Accelerated BS in Management/MBA	4/16/15
Educational Administration, MS	4/16/15
Math Field Test Requirements	2/13/15
EXSC GPA Requirements	2/6/15
Nutrition Concentration	2/6/15
Occupational Therapy Program	2/11/15
Sociology Requirements for Majors	2/13/15