

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Michelle Maldonado, Ph.D.  
Provost/Senior VPAA

DATE: December 1, 2023

SUBJECT: Academic Affairs Report for December 2023

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## 1. Administrative Search

The top three candidates for the next Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences have accepted our invitation to visit us for on-campus interviews. The names of the finalists and their CVs will be released, but not more than 72 hours in advance. These sessions will provide faculty and the University community an opportunity for broader engagement and provide feedback by filling out the surveys available at the venue.

### *First Candidate*

**Faculty Forum** – Monday, December 4, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

**Faculty, Staff, and Student Open Forum** – Monday, December 4, 3:00 – 4:00 pm

### *Second Candidate*

**Faculty Forum** – Friday, December 8, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

**Faculty, Staff, and Student Open Forum** – Friday, December 8, 3:00 – 4:00 pm

### *Third Candidate*

**Faculty Forum** – Wednesday, December 13, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

**Faculty, Staff, and Student Open Forum** – Wednesday, December 13, 3:00 – 4:00 pm

## 2. Faculty Development

### *Internal Grants*

The Faculty Research Committee awarded the following Internal Grants:

Michael Fennie, Ph.D.      *Synthesis of 4-Substituted Oxazoles via a Cationic Rearrangement*

Timothy Foley, Ph.D.      *Relationship between disulfide bonding and aggregation of brain proteins*

Matthew Meyer, Ph.D.      *Research at the Nietzsche Archive in Weimar, Germany*

Joshua Reynolds, Ph.D.      *Examining Knowledge of Search and Seizure in Students, Police, and the General Population*

Andrew Venezia, Ph.D.      *The effect of acute exercise and cognitive work on affect, mood, and cardiovascular recovery*

### *Sabbaticals*

The Faculty Research Committee approved the following sabbaticals:

***Fall 2024***

Bryan Burnham  
Roy Domenico  
Christopher Haw  
Bibi Rafeiza Khan (pre-tenure)  
Ben Willis

***Spring 2025***

Maria Johnson  
Tata Mbugua  
Jong-Hyun Son  
Daniel Sweeney, S.J.  
Stephen Whittaker

***Academic Year 2024-2025***

Satya Chattopadhyay  
Christie Karpiak  
Kenneth Monks  
Jerry Muir

Stacey Muir  
Declan Mulhall  
Susan Poulson  
Billie Tadros

**3. Faculty Searches**

We are currently searching for twenty tenure track positions, one faculty specialist and two lecturer positions. One of these searches successfully concluded. Dr. Chi Hou Lei will be joining the physics and engineering department, as an assistant professor of mechanical engineering, in Spring 2024.

**4. December Academic Affairs Town Hall**

The second fall Academic Affairs Town Hall will be on December 19, 2023 at 2pm in LSC 133. It will be followed by the Provost's Christmas party in the LSC atrium. The topic for this town hall is: National Issues in Higher Education. Topics that will be covered include: changes in the FAFSA, the current state of OPM's, college readiness, AI, the Education Department: Financial Value Transparency, and the trend of government and corporations moving away from requiring a college degree. The topics will be introduced by a panel of administrators and a Q&A will follow. Panelists are Fr. Joseph G. Marina, Shannon Zottola, Gerry Zaboski, Ed Steinmetz, Mary Kay Aston, and David Marx.

**5. Prison Program**

The University will be hosting commencement for our first class of graduates in our prison program at Dallas SCI on December 20<sup>th</sup>. I want to thank all the faculty who have taught in this program and Chris Haw for his leadership, passion, and dedication.

**6. Reopening of the Edward R. Leahy Jr. Clinic for the Uninsured**

A partnership has been announced between the University of Scranton and the Geisinger Commonwealth College of Medicine (GCSOM) to reopen the Edward R. Leahy Jr. Clinic for the Uninsured. The medical clinic is under the larger umbrella of the Leahy Community Health and Family Center (LCHFC), which provides both clinical and non-clinical services to underserved individuals in our community. The medical clinic is anticipated to start seeing patients for medical care in the Lower Level of Leahy Hall in January.

There are notable differences in how this clinic will operate compared to the previous version of the clinic, including: 1) the clinic will be the *medical home* for a large group of uninsured adult patients, thus there will be opportunity to provide treatment, therapy and education to

patients over time; and 2) the clinic will be student-run by University students and GCSOM medical students. The Medical Director, Dr. Susan Russell, and the Administrative Director, Dr. Maria Vital, will assure quality medical care and regulatory compliance. The clinic is being overseen by a Steering Committee with equal representation from both the University and from Geisinger.

## 7. Global Initiatives

### *Fulbright*

Three students submitted Fulbright applications in October 2023: 1 student for Study/Research in Taiwan; 1 for Study/Research in Rwanda; and 1 for English Teaching Assistantship in Spain. The National Fulbright Committee will select semi-finalists and notify students of their status by the end of January.

### *Study Abroad*

Faculty-Led Study Abroad courses being led this Intersession include:

- Tropical Biology in Galapagos (Galapagos Islands, Ecuador)
- Global Ireland (Ireland)
- South American Health Systems (Brazil)
- Healthcare Systems and Nursing Practice Abroad (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland)
- OT Clinical: Physical Rehabilitation (Dominican Republic)

### *Host University Study Abroad Programs*

*Intersession:* 35 students will take part in January Intersession programs with host universities in Japan, England, Ireland, Italy, and South Africa.

*Spring:* 29 students will spend the Spring semester abroad with host universities in Argentina, England, Japan, Ireland, Italy, Spain, and Scotland.

## 8. OSSS/CTE Update

The main focus for December is the preparation for final exams. In particular, a two-fold increase in students with accommodations has necessitated improvements to our testing initiatives. The department has:

- Updated and automated booking process emails to faculty and students
- Updated documentation and resources on the website
- Provided basic checklists and guidelines for online exam security for faculty
- Provided new procedures for printing exams for visually impaired students

Exams administered in the OSSS through Week 13 this semester is 1,163. We anticipate 400 finals exams to be administered in the coming weeks. In addition, increased support for the general population of students is provided due to a higher percentage of online exams created by the pandemic and the resulting change in learning modes for most courses.

OSSS update as of 11/30/2023:

<b>Total</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Tutoring Requests	1371	1305

Tutoring Sessions	4454	4809
Drop-in Tutoring		404
Students Receiving Accommodations	350	437
Exams Administered	1063	1164
Writing Center Tutoring Sessions	612	768
Success Sessions		122

Other Statistics:

- 283 Tutors are employed by OSSS (195 Fall 2022).
- 121 Note-takers are employed by OSSS.
- 315 classes have note-takers.
- 100 students receive note-taking accommodation.

The CTE was also busy this semester. The department has:

- Collaborated with the Nursing Department on the new Faculty Nurse Practitioner Online Graduate Program to provide instructional design and technical support as needed.
- Provided additional plagiarism and artificial intelligence resources for faculty via our website.
- We presented “Plagiarism & Artificial Intelligence” to our first-year faculty and their mentors.
- Evaluated artificial intelligence detection services GPTZero, ZeroGPT, Turnitin, Copyleaks and Sapling for their effectiveness in detecting AI in writing.
- Collaborated with IT on improvement and reporting of administration of the course evaluation system.

The Department is also preparing for the Rose Kelly & Frank O’Hara students awards on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Administration of the course evaluations is in full swing during this mandatory semester.

<b>9. Curriculum Updates</b>	<b>Date Posted</b>
<b>Program Revisions</b>	
Asian Studies Concentration	11/7/23
Legal Studies Concentration	11/7/23
Management	11/9/23
Marketing	11/9/23
Operations Management	11/9/23
Business Analytics	11/9/23
<b>New Program</b>	
Cybercrime Investigation and Cybersecurity Minor	10/6/23
<b>New Course</b>	
EE/PHYS 320: Space Physics and Weather	11/7/23

### **Course Revisions**

CSD 400: Anatomy and Physiology of Speech & Hearing Mechanism	11/21/23
CSC 403: Intro to Speech and Language Disorders in Healthcare	11/21/23
CSD 409: Speech and Hearing Science	11/21/23
NUTR 110: Introduction to Nutrition	11/21/23
SLP 503: Pediatric Language Disorders	11/21/23
SLP 506: Language and Literacy	11/21/23
SLP 509: Speech Sound Production & Disorders	11/21/23
SLP 521: Fluency & Fluency Disorders	11/21/23
SLP 539: Swallowing and Feeding Disorders	11/21/23
SLP 568: Residency Field Placement	11/21/23
SLP 580A: Virtual Clinical Simulation I	11/21/23
SLP 580B: Virtual Clinical Simulation II	11/21/23
SLP 580C: Virtual Clinical Simulation III	11/21/23
SLP 580D: Virtual Clinical Simulation IV	11/21/23
SLP 580E: Virtual Clinical Simulation V	11/21/23
SLP 581A: Residency Field Placement I	11/21/23
ENLT 125: Classic American Stories	11/20/23
ENLT 443: Chaucer	11/20/23

### **10. Updates**

- The College of Arts and Sciences again plans to offer an Academic Success Workshop for at-risk first-year students during January 2024. This program is aimed to assist students who have experienced academic difficulty in their first semester and providing them with the tools to improve their performance.
- The College of Arts and Sciences awarded its first round of undergraduate student research grants. There was a total of twenty-three student awards in the first round, with a second round of applications due December 15<sup>th</sup>. These awards supported students at a variety of stages of research ranging from funding of laboratory research to conference travel to present their findings.
- The new CAS Passport Workshop is complete. The average weekly attendance was 439 students. As part of the workshops, students received training on the SEP (including access to a series of training videos). Student response has been positive and there is already a clear benefit in the student registration process. We are also running a survey to get student feedback on their overall experience in the workshop.
- On November 14, 2023 the Nursing Department received approval from the State Board of Nursing to offer the Family Nurse Practitioner Program in an online format. We anticipate offering the program online starting Fall 2024.
- Students majoring in cybercrime and homeland security placed second and third in a cyber security simulation student competition hosted by Endicott College in Massachusetts.