

TO: Faculty Senate

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

DATE: September 7, 2018

SUBJECT: Academic Affairs Report for September 2018

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### **1. Thank you**

Let me begin by thanking everyone for the generous welcome that you have provided to me since arriving on campus. You have confirmed for me that the University of Scranton is a gracious and mission-driven community. I look forward to working with all of you to grow the vibrant academic reputation of the University.

### **2. Strategic Enrollment Planning Process**

I am grateful to all faculty and staff who have been involved in the development of a Strategic Enrollment Planning (SEP) process, which has been launched this fall. The SEP is designed to create a data-informed, five-year strategic enrollment plan that will address the University's pressing challenge by generating strategies for predictable long-term enrollment and fiscal health.

We have contracted with Ruffalo Noel Levitz to facilitate this discussion in formulating the plan. They will work with the University over a year period with consistent visits to campus and continual communication with the Provost and SEP Council to finalize the plan. They will also advise on plan implementation and modification procedures.

The Strategic Enrollment Planning Council will be the primary leadership team for the SEP process, ensuring that we keep on task throughout the year and set reasonable goals for our long-term strategic progress. Membership is made up of key enrollment management staff, faculty, Cabinet members and deans. Four faculty members will serve on the Council:

- Dr. Marian Farrell
- Dr. Douglas Boyle
- Dr. Susan Mendez
- Dr. Maria Squire

In order to achieve sufficient input from across campus and to encourage specific discussion on enrollment in important areas, five working groups will be created. Each of these will be co-chaired by members of the Strategic Enrollment Planning Council. As with the Council membership will be develop from constituencies across campus. I am working closely with both the Faculty Senate and Staff Senate to invite nominations for these working group positions and invitations will be finalized shortly and announced to campus.

### **3. Faculty Hiring:**

Please join me in welcoming to the University 23 new faculty: 15 Assistant Professors, 3 Instructors, 1 Associate Professor, 3 Faculty Specialists, and 1 Visiting Assistant Professor.

A new faculty orientation session was conducted on August 21 in conjunction with the CTLE. Faculty responsibilities, evaluation process, assessment, Title IX, CTLE resources and the mentor- mentee programs were all on the Agenda. For a list of new faculty see Attachment 1.

In addition, thirty-four non-tenure track contracts were renewed.

#### **4. Fulbright Scholars and Visiting Faculty:**

We are excited to have four Fulbright foreign language teaching assistants taking courses and teaching their native languages:

- Maryann Ahmed, Bahrain
- Juan Ruiz, Colombia
- Minori Koga, Japan
- Laura Martel, France

We also welcome one incoming faculty member thorough our arrangement with the Taiwan Ministry of Education and the University:

- Cia Ying Liao of Taiwan, B.A. in Political Science, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan; M.A. in Applied Chinese Language and Culture, National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan.

#### **5. Administrative Searches Update:**

KSOM Dean Search: We will soon launch a search for the new Kania School of Management (KSOM) Dean. In accordance with Faculty Handbook, the President will be assisted in filling the vacancy by a Search Committee which will include (among other staff and administration) two full-time faculty members elected by and from the college/school/Library seeking a Dean, and one other full-time faculty member elected at large. Faculty Senate is currently developing the election process to fill these positions on the search committee.

CAS Assistant Dean: Julee Modzelewski has been named Assistant Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. For the past seven years Julee has been the Communication Department's secretary. Prior to that she worked as a Human Resources Administrator at TMG Health. Julee received her BA in communication with a minor in English from Marywood University. She is currently completing a BS in Psychology and a Master of Accountancy at The University of Scranton.

#### **6. Rankings:**

- *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Colleges has ranked The University of Scranton among the 10 top master's universities in the North for 24 consecutive years; in the 2018 edition, Scranton placed sixth. Recently, the University was recognized for "Service Learning" and among the "Best Colleges for Veterans."
- In its 2018 guidebook, three Kania School of Management programs ranked among the top in the nation on *U.S News & World Report's* business specialty lists:
  - › Accounting ranked No. 17

- › Finance ranked No. 17
- › Entrepreneurship ranked No. 22
- The National League of Nursing named Scranton's nursing program a "Center of Excellence".
- The University of Scranton ranked among the nation's best values for a college education based on educational quality, affordability and alumni success, according to a 2018 ranking by *Money* magazine published in August. The multifaceted methodology analyzed data on 26 factors in order to rank the 727 "best performing colleges" in America. Scranton, at No.191 in the nation, had the 7<sup>th</sup> highest ranking of the 25 Jesuit colleges listed. Scranton is the highest ranked school in Northeastern Pennsylvania.
- The University of Scranton ranks among the top 12 percent of colleges in the nation for alumni earnings, according to "Best Universities and Colleges by Salary Potential" 2017-2018 college salary report published online by PayScale. The report ranked U.S. colleges based on the median salary reported of alumni early in their careers (from zero to five years of work experience) and at mid-career (10 or more years of work experience).

## 7. Faculty Development:

### Faculty Grants:

During the 2017-2018 academic year the following grants were awarded to our faculty: 3 Intersession Grants, 7 Summer Grants, and 4 Clavius Grants were awarded to 8 faculty members. The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs awarded 7 President's Fellowships for Summer Research.

### Faculty Travel

Faculty travel funds supported 151 faculty traveling to 196 conferences in 2017-2018.

### Sabbaticals

#### **Fall 2018**

Aram Balagyozyan  
Dona Carpenter  
Hyuk Cheong (Pre-Tenure)  
Robert Smith  
Taewan Kim

#### **Spring 2019**

Michael Friedman  
Renee Hakim  
Maria Johnson  
Daniel Mahoney  
Edward Scahill

#### **Academic Year 2018-2019**

Ann Feeney  
Christie Karpiak  
Declan Mulhall  
Gretchen Van Dyke

## 8. Department Chairpersons:

The annual retreat for the department chairs was held on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The agenda included presentations by the deans on their goals for 2018-2019 as well as future plans, Mr. Steinmetz gave an update on the current and future financial situation, and brief reports on human resource issues, information regarding Title IX, and information on data analytics were also presented. Mr. Lew Sanborne, from Ruffalo Noel Levitz, met with the chairs to discuss the development of the Strategic Enrollment Plan.

## 9. Provost Events and Deadlines:

### Intersession Grant Proposals

The deadline for full-time faculty interested in submitting a proposal for an Intersession Grant is October 5, 2018.

### Rank and Tenure

The timeline for applications for rank or tenure was distributed the first week of the semester and is available on the Provost's website. The deadline for faculty members to inform the provost's office of his or her intent to apply is September 28<sup>th</sup> and dossiers are due on October 31<sup>st</sup>. A public meeting designed to inform faculty of the rank and tenure policies and procedures was held on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Provost's Conference Room.

## **10. International Studies**

Total international students this fall (F and J Visa types) is 72. The breakdown of the international student population is as below:

New graduate students in the summer ( Saudi Arabia )	3
New graduate students in the fall (Saudi Arabia, Philippines, Bangladesh, Mexico, China and Nigeria )	10
New exchange undergraduate students in the fall ( S Korea, Taiwan, Colombia, Spain and Ireland )	13
New exchange graduate student in the fall ( El Salvador )	1
Returning students	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>

## **11. Study Abroad**

### Developing our own Global Sites:

Initial investigations into Cusco Peru to replace Cochabamba Bolivia will take place in October. Uganda continues to be developed by Nursing, Theology, PT and Health Administration. In January we will be visiting Zagreb Croatia to investigate possibilities of collaborating with the Jesuit college there as a global site for Scranton.

### Global Credential:

We are still waiting on approval of this credential.

### Faculty Led Study Abroad Policy:

We are still waiting on finalization of this policy.

### Incentives for Faculty:

- **Global Fund:** This fund has been created by the Provost's strategic fund. It will support the mentoring of faculty who have never led a travel course abroad with the goal of creating new travel courses.
- **Provost fund:** A proposal to repurpose the Provost Award fund to support faculty led programs was passed by the provost's council but we are waiting on final word about this fund.
- **Center for Global Engagement:** An initial draft of a proposal for this Center has been written and submitted to Provost.

Metrics:

Students who studied abroad in the 2017-2018 Academic Year

2017-2018 Academic Year	
Fall	25
Intersession	152
Spring	46
Summer	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>

## 12. Planning & Institutional Effectiveness

The Office of Planning & Institutional Effectiveness is preparing the University's annual strategic plan progress report, which will be released via the [scranton.edu/strategicplan](http://scranton.edu/strategicplan) web site in December. This report includes strategic metrics and summary of achievements made during the last academic year, drawing from departmental and divisional annual reports and other sources. This year's report will include mid-point reflection on the plan's overall success to date, drawing data from a strategic planning survey conducted on campus in 2017-2018. Reflection on our planning processes, inclusive of the strategic plan and other institutional planning efforts, is important part of our Middle States Self-Study.

In late spring, proposals for a second round of strategic initiatives funding were received by the Planning Office and reviewed by the University Planning Committee. Sixteen proposals were funded for 2018-2019, with awards totaling \$188,000; to date, the University has invested over \$430,000 in strategic initiatives activities. Visit [www.scranton.edu/strategicplan](http://www.scranton.edu/strategicplan) to learn more about funded projects.

Work also continues on the development of a replacement for the current Annual Report System, which captures annual planning, reporting and resource requests. Reports are completed by all academic chairpersons and departmental and divisional leaders. The new design draws from formal assessments and informal feedback to the system and related processes. Planning and Institutional Effectiveness and Division of Information Technology are partnering on this initiative, and are currently preparing for demonstrations and a pilot during the fall semester. The new system is expected to launch in spring 2019.

### Policy, Governance, and Compliance:

An inventory of university policies is underway. The goal of this exercise is to help identify policy gaps which may exist, and create an important opportunity for the updating of policies in various areas. This activity serves as a means of assessment related to policy and governance for our MSCHE self-study, including the compliance reporting component of that process, and should guide other policy improvement activities in the years to come. As part of the Middle States Self-Study, the Assistant Provost for Planning is leading a collaborative working group to prepare the University's two required compliance reports, which collate a number of documents and policies in support of the University's compliance with Middle States' Requirements for Affiliation and eight federal accreditation-relevant legislative requirements under the Higher Education Opportunity Act. As part of this process,

a number of policies have been reviewed, renewed, or created to meet compliance directives, many through the work of the Provost's Committee on Academic Policy and Compliance.

*Middle States Self-Study Update: September 2018*

After a 2017-2018 academic year spent researching and analyzing their assigned Standards, the seven Working Groups completed their reports in May. A campus review followed in June, as we posted the reports and solicited comments. Over the summer, the Self-Study Co-Chairs worked to complete and compile the full report, including gathering additional and new evidence and communicating information in a streamlined manner. In October, the co-chairs will share a draft of the full self-study report with the campus and key bodies for further broad input before sending it to the Middle States Team Chair who will visit campus November 8-9. The Board of Trustees will review the full report and vote on approval at the November meeting.

### **13. Office of Educational Assessment**

The Office of Educational Assessment (OEA) is beginning its fifth year of operation. As part of the Self Study process for Middle States accreditation, I have prepared and sent a progress report to Dr. Gingerich on the office's efforts and achievements since its establishment. In addition, we have completed one full implementation cycle of the University's Comprehensive Plan for Assessment of Student Learning. Finally, we are fully engaged with the Middle States Steering Committee in preparing the report addressing the criteria for Standard V, Educational Effectiveness Assessment.

### **14. College Updates**

*College of Arts and Sciences*

- Timothy Foley, Ph.D., in the Chemistry Department was named the 2018 Alpha Sigma Nu Teacher of the Year. The award, formally known as the Gannon Award was established in 1969. The award recognizes outstanding teaching among faculty. Student members of Alpha Sigma Nu select the professor to be honored.
- Marc Seid, Ph.D. was awarded \$200,703 from a National Science Foundation collaborative research grant to study "Social brains and solitary bees: A phylogenetic test of the effect of social behavior on brain evolution across multiple gains and losses of sociality."
- Daniel Haggerty, Ph.D., professor of philosophy and director of the SJLA program was been named Teacher of the Year by the class of 2018. The award honors a faculty member who maintains high standards of academic excellence and fairness, and through enthusiasm and dedication, inspires the interest of student in a field of education.
- A new affiliation between the University of Scranton and Duquesne University School of Law gives Scranton student the option of automatic admission to the law school after completion of 3 years at Scranton and a minimum scholarship of \$25,000 per year while at Duquesne for student who meet program requirements.

- Ming-Chao Lin Ph.D., professor at the National Taiwan University will give a public lecture on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm in TDC 406. The topic is “Reflection on the Self and Ethical Implication in *Zhuangzi*.”

#### Kania School of Management

- The inaugural cohort of 19 high school students completed their first college courses in business this summer as participants in Business High School Scholars Program.
- Rose Sebastianelli, Ph.D. and Daniel Mahoney, Ph.D. were awarded the three-year William and Elizabeth Burkavage Fellowship in Business Ethics and Social Responsibility for 2018-21. The award provides support to assist University faculty in new research on issues of sustainability, social responsibility and business ethics.

#### Panuska College of Professional Studies

- Mary Jane Hanson, Ph.D. was elected vice chair of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education’s (CCNE) Board of Commissioners. CCNE is one of the largest accrediting agencies in the nation and is responsible for the accreditation of nursing programs at over 700 colleges and universities.
- Julie Cerrito, Ph.D. was awarded Counselor Educator of the Year by the Pennsylvania School Counselors Association. The organization noted her exemplary leadership and advocacy in preparing school counseling student for their future practitioner roles.

#### Weinberg Memorial Library

- Lorene Cary will receive the 2018 Royden B. Davis, S.J., Distinguished Author Award from the University of Scranton’s Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.