

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior VPAA

DATE: September 6, 2021

SUBJECT: Provost Report for September 10, 2021

1. Welcome Back

I want to start by welcoming everyone back to campus. It is great to have more of an in-person experience this Fall.

2. COVID 19 Update

After reviewing the health and safety recommendations from the CDC, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) and monitoring the spread of the virus in our surrounding communities the University has again implemented new procedures in this semester's Royal Back Together Plan: <https://www.scranton.edu/royals-safe-together/index.shtml>.

We will reevaluate these provisions and will update the University community on September 13th.

Individuals that were granted a waiver to the vaccine requirement will participate in weekly COVID-19 surveillance testing.

Students may need to be isolated or quarantined again this semester. Faculty members are notified automatically when students assisted through Student Health Services or the contract tracers are unable to attend class due to isolation or quarantine. As last semester, we ask that faculty accommodate these students when the University has told the student not to attend class. These accommodations do not have to happen synchronously with the in-class experience. Our focus is to help students keep up with their classes when they cannot attend.

In response to the pandemic, the facilities operations implemented multiple adjustments to campus heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in academic building and most office buildings on campus to improve indoor quality. We increased the outdoor air and relief air of HVAC systems where possible. This process reduces the recirculation of air into the space while improving the air quality by flushing more impurities out of the space. The University will also continue to run HVAC systems longer, both before and after the space is occupied, in order to clear more aerosols from the space. The University will also increase the supply air rate in the HVAC system by increasing the fan speeds wherever possible, thereby increasing the air change rate in the space. The University has also treated all heating and cooling coils with an anti-bacterial spray and has replaced air filters prior to the beginning of the fall semester.

3. Associate Provost Search

The University of Scranton has named David Marx, Ph.D., associate provost of academic affairs, concluding a national search for the position. A long-time chemistry faculty member at Scranton, Dr. Marx served as the interim associate provost in 2020-2021.

As associate provost, Dr. Marx will oversee the University's Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, Office of Institutional Reporting and Data Analytics, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Office of Educational Assessment, Office of Graduate Academic and Student Services, the Office of Global Education and the Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness.

4. Interim Dean positions

Two new interim deans have been agreed to serve in these important leadership positions:

- George Aulisio has agreed to serve as Interim Dean of the library. George has been a faculty member at the University since 2009. He most recently served as Chair of the Department of Faculty Librarians and Research & Scholarly Services Coordinator. As a Research & Instruction Librarian, he works closely with students in research consultations and the Information Literacy program. He also regularly teaches philosophy courses and independent studies. Through the summer, we received applications for the permanent dean position and will move forward with this search quickly this semester with the hope of filling it by January 2022.
- Dr. Mike Mensah, Leadership Chair in Business Education and former dean of the Kania School of Management (KSOM), has agreed to serve as Interim Dean for KSOM during the 2021-2022 academic year. Mike joined the Accounting Department faculty in 1987. An award-winning teacher and scholar, he was professor and chair of accounting at Scranton until his appointment as dean of the Kania School of Management in 2005. We are currently working on the development of the search committee for the permanent dean's position, per Faculty Handbook, and will launch this search soon.

5. Commencement Weekend is Moving to May 20-22, 2022

After reflecting on the success of our most recent Commencement experience, we have decided to mirror the approach again by moving Commencement Weekend one week earlier to May 20-22, 2022. This is a change from what some of you may have seen in an earlier version of the academic calendar. Additionally, the deadline by which all final Spring 2022 regular term grades are due has been extended to Tuesday, May 24th at noon.

Commencement Ceremonies at Mohegan Sun Arena

In order to accommodate as many students and guests as possible, graduate and undergraduate ceremonies will both be held at Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre Township. **Both ceremonies will be held on Saturday, May 21.** The time of each ceremony is not yet determined.

Dates of Commencement Events

Saturday, May 21 Graduate Commencement, Mohegan Sun Arena
Undergraduate Commencement, Mohegan Sun Arena
Sunday, May 22 Baccalaureate Mass, Byron Recreation Complex

6. Faculty Hiring

Please join me in welcoming 14 new faculty, 1 Associate Professor, 5 Assistant Professors, 6 Faculty Specialists, and 2 Lecturers. A new faculty orientation session was held on August 24th in conjunction with the CTLE.

In addition, 35 Faculty Specialist contract were renewed.

7. Fulbright Scholars

We are excited to have 3 Fulbright foreign language teaching assistants taking courses and teaching their native languages:

- Mr. Belal N. Elkurd from Palestine
- Ms. Julia Illarramendi from Spain
- Ms. Nawel Kohouaji from France

We also welcome one incoming faculty member through our arrangement with the Taiwan Ministry of Education, Mr. Chun-Sheng, Taiwan and a visiting Instructor for Japan, Mr. Kentaro Fukube.

8. Provost Events and Deadlines

Rank and Tenure

The deadline for faculty members to inform the provost's office of his or her intent to apply is September 22nd and dossiers are due on October 22nd. A public meeting designed to inform faculty of the rank and tenure policies and procedures is scheduled to meet on ZOOM on Thursday, September 16th at 11:45 a.m. in the Provost's Conference Room.

On August 30th the following calls for proposals were sent to faculty:

Intersession Grants

Intersession Grants are intended to promote scholarship and curriculum development. The deadline to submit applications to the Associate Provost's office is October 1, 2021.

CTLE's Teaching Enhancement Grants

The CTLE announced that grants of up to \$1,800 are available to full-time faculty interested in enhancing their teaching skills. This year the CTLE will be awarding up to ten Teaching Enhancement Grants.

The deadline to submit an application to the Associate Provost's office is November 1, 2021.

Development Stipends for Online Courses

The CTLE to announced that stipends of \$5,000 are available for full-time faculty interested in obtaining funding to assist with the initial development of a three-credit online course created on the University's Learning Management System, or stipends of \$3,000 are available for full-time faculty interested in obtaining funding to assist with the revision of a 3-credit online course currently offered on the University's Learning Management System.

Online courses being revised, they must have been taught three or more years online to be eligible for the stipend. Stipends for one- or two-credit online courses will be \$2,500 for initial development and \$1,500 for revision. This year the CTLE will be awarding up to five Development Stipends for Online Courses.

The deadline to submit an application to the Associate Provost's office is November 1, 2021.

9. Global Insights

The Global Insights program is a platform whereby student, staff or faculty with international experience, share their knowledge and expertise with the campus community. This semester the presentations will be offered in Brennan 509 from 11:30 to 12:30 pm. The following are that presentations scheduled this fall:

- September 16th – Saudi Arabia
- October 21st – Philippines
- November 18th – South Africa

10. Sabbaticals

Fall 2021

John Deak
Josephine Dunn
Christopher Gillett (pre-tenure)
Joan Grossman
John Kilker (pre-tenure)
Richard Klonoski
Andrew LaZella
Richard Larsen
Nathan Lefler
Yibai Li
Masood Otarod
Krzysztof Plotka
James Roberts
Robert Shaffern
Sweeney, Terrence

Spring 2022

Michael Allison
Howard Fisher
Mary Jane Hanson
Ozgur Isil
Peter Leininger
Daniel West
Hank Willenbrink

Academic Year

Jessica Nolan
Patrick Orr
Meghan Rich
Yamile Silva
Nicholas Sizemore