

TO: Faculty Senate Report

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

DATE: May 10, 2021

RE: Provost's Report for May

END OF SEMESTER THANK YOU

As we come to the end of the 2021-2022 academic year, I again want to express my profound gratitude for all that faculty have done to make this year successful. The pandemic and other unexpected trials have tested our own capacity for the key ingredients of a liberal arts and humanities education in all departments. You had to apply our critical and creative thinking, problem-solving, moral reasoning and communication skills more than ever as you've continued to deliver academic excellence in a very different environment. Thank you.

As we wrap up the semester, I have scheduled one more online open discussion with faculty. This will take place on Thursday, May 20th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. I will plan on staying on the Zoom for the entire time in case some faculty are not able to get on until later in the call because of final exams. I will send an invitation with Zoom information soon.

PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

Fr. Marina is looking forward to coming on board and has already had good discussions with Faculty Senate and FAC leadership. His official starting date is June 15, although he will be moving to campus in the days prior.

ASSOCIATE PROVOST SEARCH

The search committee has reviewed the applications, conducted Zoom interviews and have invited three finalists to interview. An Open Forum for faculty and staff to meet each candidate have been scheduled for May 11th from 3:00 to 4:00 pm, May 12 from 3:00 to 4:00 and May 14 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. Given the size of the audience the forums will take place over Zoom.

LIBRARY DEAN SEARCH

After further consideration based on the good feedback I have received, I have decided that we will immediately continue the search for this dean's position. I am working with faculty, staff and students to select individuals who can serve on a new search committee and hope to convene that group in May so that we can advertise the position over the summer. This will allow the possibility of a hire by either January or summer 2022. We will use a search firm this time. Thanks to all who have offered important questions, insights and counsel regarding next steps in our search for a Dean of the Library. Please let me know if you have any questions.

GENERAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR

It is my pleasure to announce that Dr. Maria Squire has been selected as the General Education Coordinator for a three-year term starting Fall 2021. Maria has extensive experience in the curriculum approval process here at Scranton and has served as the Interim GE coordinator

during this academic year. Additionally, Maria has served on the Curriculum Conference Committee (CCC) for nine years and served as its Chair from 2017-2020. She has also served the past 2 years as the co-Chair of the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee (FSCC) and has been a member of that committee for nine years. Maria previously served for 6 years as a Faculty Senator and is completing the first year of a new term as a Faculty Senator this academic year. She has also been a member of its Executive Committee for several years.

DIRECTOR OF FIRST YEAR SEMINAR

It is also my pleasure to announce that Dr. Teresa Grettano has agreed to serve as the Director of First Year Seminar starting in the Fall, replacing Charles Pinches who has served in the role for many years. I know you joining me in thanking Charles for his years of service and welcome Teresa into her new role. Teresa has taught the FYS since its inception, and she's served on the advisory board since 2014, often helping to plan and deliver the May workshop. She also helped organize and host the Ignatian Values in Action Lecture. Teresa's commitment to the mission is evident in all that she does. She is in the process of completing her formation through the AJCU Ignatian Colleagues Program and the Jesuit Center guided 19th Annotation. She has been on pilgrimages to Spain, Jerusalem, and El Salvador that led to deeper understandings of the Jesuit influences and histories there. She has been a member of The Ellacuría Initiative since she arrived on campus, and she has served as its director since 2019.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2020 [Strategic Plan](#) was constructed through a widely consultative process that included reflection on assessment, campus-wide surveys and fora, discussions with representative governance groups, and the continued work and careful discernment of the University Planning Committee (UPC) and President's Cabinet. Following approval by the Board of Trustees in September 2020, we have moved ahead with a communications plan to share information about the plan's implementation and progress with members of the University community and beyond.

Annual and periodic progress reporting will include reflection on the status of performance indicators and metrics (including, for example, student enrollment and persistence data, diversity and inclusion measures, and faculty and student research activity data) and results from internal assessments and measures of student experience and satisfaction.

As part of our holistic, integrated planning model, University departments, colleges, and other administrative areas have this year been identifying ways to support the plan through their own activities and collaborative initiatives. This important operational work will culminate this spring and summer as part of our annual planning and reporting cycle. Strategic plan progress reporting will draw information from these areas to further describe how we are meeting the strategic plan's goals.

Despite the practical challenges of navigating this first year of the strategic plan under the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are excited to celebrate concrete outcomes. Supporting our students, their well-being, and their pursuit of their *Faith, Purpose, and Passion* has been paramount during these uniquely difficult times. Other work includes growth in *Humanities* programming, and general education curriculum review; deep focus on *Diversity and Inclusion*, including the first phase of development for a new University-wide plan; *Advancing the*

University through strategic enrollment planning, including the new Office and Director of Student Retention and Completion, and several new academic programs; and realizing new *Partnerships in our Mission* through academic agreements and dialogue with the City of Scranton.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STRATEGIES

We continue to prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion efforts on campus as we work toward being a more welcoming and safe community. Here are a few key highlights of this work:

- **Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan**
The Diversity and Inclusion Planning Team started to pull together a preliminary draft of the Strategic Plan based on information gathered during the information and data gathering stage. Once the draft is assembled, the Diversity and Inclusion Planning Team will meet with additional campus constituencies for feedback and input.
- **HEDS Diversity and Equity Survey**
The Provost’s Council for Diversity and Inclusion recently received the results of the HEDS Diversity and Equity Survey that was administered in the fall semester. The Council will be examining the data to further inform the Council’s work, and to assist the University as it works to develop co-curricular education, DEI programs and activities. The Council will share information with the campus once it completes a review and analysis of the information.
- **Diversity Hire Workgroups**
Patricia Tetreault, Vice President for Human Resources, and I convened a group earlier this year to assist the Office of Equity and Diversity in identifying and implementing steps to expand the pool of candidates and intentionally seek to build a faculty and staff that better represent the growing diversity of our student body. The group met with the Departments involved in the cluster hire to listen and collect their input and feedback to incorporate into the diversity hiring guidebook to be used by faculty search committees. The guidebook has been sent to FAC for review.
- **Faculty DEI Training**
A subcommittee made up of faculty members of the Provost’s Council for Diversity and Inclusion, and administrators, have been meeting on a biweekly basis to discuss and examine faculty training needs related diversity, equity and inclusion. Our goal is to develop a plan for faculty development that will be the most effective and impactful to educate our faculty and to serve all of our students.

FACULTY SEARCHES

We have successfully completed ten faculty searches:

Alicia Hatcher	Assistant Professor	English and Theatre
Neelam Lahankar	Faculty Specialist	Chemistry
Nicole Hoskins	Assistant Professor	Theology/RS
Rachel Frissell	Faculty Specialist	Physics and Engineering
Dana Brookover	Assistant Professor	Counseling and Human Services

Natalie Gilboy	Faculty Specialist	Nursing
Sayed Banitabaei	Assistant Professor	Physics/Engineering
Bibi Khan	Assistant Professor	Biology
David Mahalak	Faculty Specialist	OIM
John Kaufman	Faculty Specialist	Computing Sciences

PRESIDENT'S FELLOWSHIP SUMMER RESEARCH 2021

This year the following faculty and students received a President's Fellowship Summer Research Grant:

Dr. Michael Allison - Isaiah Livelsberger	<i>An Evaluation of UN-led-State Building Initiatives in Post-Civil War Societies</i>
Dr. Vincent Farallo - Catherine Renton	<i>Soil Microhabitat Differences Between Two Microendemic Salamanders</i>
Dr. Christopher Howey - Liza Bruno	<i>Studying the Effects of Ambient Light at Night (ALAN) on Testosterone Production and Aggressive Behavior</i>
Dr. Christopher Howey - Nicolette George	<i>Investigating the Influence of Ambient Light at Night on Bone Density</i>
Dr. Cara Krieg - Shane Power	<i>Effects of Environmental and Parental Quality on House Wren Preproductive Success</i>
Dr. Jessica Nolan - Koebe Diaz	<i>Empathy and Authority at the Southern Border: A Scenario Study</i>
Dr. Ismail Onat - Fatima Torres	<i>Effects of Employment on Recidivism</i>
Dr. Adam Pratt - Peter Burke	<i>A Just Recognition: Acknowledging and Chronicling the History of the Indigenous Peoples of the Wyoming Valley</i>
Dr. Marc Seid - Emily Allen	<i>The Effects of Age on Cellular Respiration Rates in <i>Camponotus floridanus</i></i>
Dr. Marc Seid - Laura Miller	<i>The Effects of Bacteriophage Transfer in <i>Camponotus Pennsylvanicus</i> Through <i>Trophallaxis</i></i>

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

The 2021 Celebration of Student Scholars, which recognizes both undergraduate and graduate student scholarship, will be held in a virtual format. Students have been asked to submit an abstract that will be available to the University community. They also given the option of submitting a video describing their project and conclusions. Students from all colleges and disciplines have been encouraged to participate.

CURRICULUM APPROVALS

New Course

	Date Posted
SLP 500: Research Methods in CSD	3/29/21
SLP 518: Professional Issues Ethical Conduct & IPE	3/29/21
SLP 533: Acquired Linguistic-Cognitive Communication Disorders	3/29/21
SLP 548: Cognitive & Psychiatric Habilitation/Rehabilitation	3/29/21
SLP 564: Advanced Diagnostic in Swallowing Disorders	3/29/21
SLP 566: Management of Speech & Swallowing - Post Head & Cancer	3/29/21
SLP 568: Residency Field Placement II	3/29/21
SLP 580A: Virtual Clinical Simulation I	3/29/21
SLP 580B: Virtual Clinical Simulation II	3/29/21
SLP 580C: Virtual Clinical Simulation III	3/29/21
SLP 580D: Virtual Clinical Simulation IV	3/29/21
SLP 580E: Virtual Clinical Simulation V	3/29/21
SLP 581A: Residency Field Placement I	3/29/21
SLP 581B: Speech-Language-Hearing Assessment & Intervention I	3/29/21
SLP 581C: Speech-Language-Hearing Assessment & Intervention II	3/29/21
PS 234: Policy Analysis	3/19/21
PS 339: Social Welfare Policy	3/19/21
HAD 529: Assisted Living Administration	3/9/21
HAD 528: Nursing Home Administration	3/9/21
HIST 351: Global Environmental History	2/5/21
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LIT 225 Monsters Aliens Superheros	2/5/21

Course Change

PSYC 481 Field Experience in Applied Psychology	2/5/21
PSYC 310 Multivariate Statistics	2/5/21
PSYC 228 Health Psychology	2/5/21
PSYC 491 History & Literature of Psychology II	2/5/21
PSYC 490 History & Literature of Psychology I	2/5/21
COMM 224: Media Writing	2/5/21
COMM 215: Introduction to Communication Theory	2/5/21
CJ 311 GIS for Public Safety	2/5/21
BIOL 271: Entomology	2/8/21
BIOL 271L: Entomology Lab	2/8/21

Course Deletion

HD 334 – Couple and Family Therapy	2/5/21
HD 224 – Family Development	2/5/21
HD 325 Abnormal Child Psychology	2/5/21
NURS 344: Forensic Healthcare of Victims	2/17/21
NURS 345: Forensic Healthcare of Offenders	2/17/21
NURS 405: Health Writing for Publication	2/17/21

NURS 410: Nursing Management	2/17/21
NURS 511: Epidemiology and Methods of Prevention	2/17/21
NURS 543: Contemporary Criminal for Health Professionals	2/17/21
NURS 544: Forensic Health Care of Victims	2/17/21
NURS 545: Forensic Health Care of Offenders	2/17/21
NURS 553: Theoretical Foundations of Case Management	2/17/21
NURS 565: Nurse Anesthesia Residency I	2/17/21
NURS 567: Professional Practice of the CNS	2/17/21
NURS 568: Advanced Application of the Professional Practice of the CNS	2/17/21
NURS 575: Nurse Anesthesia Residency II	2/17/21
NURS 584: Case Management Clinical Practicum	2/17/21
NURS 585: Nurse Anesthesia Residency III	2/17/21
NURS 596: Clinical Applications of Adv. Practice Concepts	2/17/21

Program Change

Secondary Education – Mathematics	2/1/21
Social Media Strategies	2/5/21
Business Communication	2/5/21
Lifespan Development Concentration	2/5/21
Philosophy	2/8/21
Women’s and Gender Studies	2/15/21
Criminal Justice, AS	2/15/21
Sociology, AS	2/15/21
International Language Business	2/26/21
Classical Studies	2/26/21
International Studies	2/5/21
Modern Languages	2/26/21
Nurse Anesthesia Post MSN Track	2/17/21
Nurse Anesthesia Post Master’s MSN Track	2/17/21
Theatre Minor	2/5/21
Mathematics, BS	2/24/21
SJLA	2/8/21

UPDATES

- ❖ Each year, the Graduating Senior class selects its Teacher of the Year. I am pleased to report that this year's honoree is Dr. Yaodong Bi of the Computing Sciences Department. The Student Government President, Jeffery Colucci, will present the award during the Class Night celebration on May 21. Please join me in congratulating Bi on receiving this richly-deserved honor.
- ❖ Special Collections recently received a journalism-related collection from alumnus Gene Gibbons '64, H'96. Gibbons spent much of his career as a White House Correspondent for United Press International and Reuters. The collection consists of items documenting his

career and includes some photographs, press briefing books for presidential summit meetings, and books autographed by politicians and journalist colleagues. Special Collections Librarian Michael Knies and Professor Emeritus of History Frank Homer also conducted an oral history with Gibbons.

- ❖ The Library is hosting its 10th Environmental Art Show virtually this year. The exhibit which can be viewed at <https://digitalprojects.scranton.edu/s/environmental-art-exhibit/>. The exhibition was coordinated by Professor Marleen Cloutier, and also includes a selection of photos from previous exhibits.
- ❖ Save the Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 - The 20th Annual U.S. Conference on disABILITY in partnership with the ALLONE Foundation and Autism Collaborative Centers of Excellence.