

TO: Faculty Senate Report

FROM: Joseph H. Dreisbach, Ph.D.  
Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: March 5, 2018

RE: Provost's Report for March

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**1. Academic Calendar:**

Discussions about the "calendar concept" continue and formal feedback has been provided. Within another 10 days, I hope to present to the community an adjusted calendar that is compliant with federal financial aid regulations, and that incorporates many of the thoughts from the campus discussions.

**2. Magna Charta Universitatum**

Pursuant to the Faculty Senate Motion - October 13, 2017 #10, the University of Scranton has submitted its application to the Observatory Magna Charta Universitatum. We expect a response to the application before the end of the spring semester.

For more information on this program please see: <http://www.magna-charta.org/magna-charta-universitatum/the-magna-charta-1>

**3. Admissions**

*Preview Day*

Scheduled for Saturday, March 24, the program for 2018 has undergone substantial alteration from previous years. The goal is to have an experience that is more personal for accepted students and their families. Our Admissions Office is aware of the *March for Our Lives* events that are planned nationwide for March 24. Alternative admissions opportunities for students who choose to attend the *March for Our Lives* are being developed. Thanks to all who are planning to participate in this important University function.

**4. International Recruiting Efforts:**

These efforts have been intensified over the past year, with particular emphasis being placed on specific regions including India, Vietnam, People's Republic of China, and Taiwan. The University has signed a contract with Beijing International Education Institute (BIEI) which will represent University recruiting interests in PRC. Ms Mingjie Ding (Jessica) is assigned to the University of Scranton as her only client school. She was on campus in late February and early March and she will be headquartered in Shanghai. Mr. Brendan Reedy, '12 is the University's Associate Director for International Recruiting.

**5. Teaching Portfolio**

During the January 2018 promotion and tenure reviews, a number of Board on Rank and Tenure members described difficulty in assessing candidates' success in teaching from their dossier information. I have started discussions with the Faculty Senate leadership about a collaborative project around faculty teaching portfolios. I envision the project as a faculty option to facilitate development in their teaching proficiency, and to demonstrate their history of that development and their successes in teaching. The Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence would be the logical place for the project to reside.

## **6. Requests from Student Government Representatives**

Students have approached me concerning their request for an “online catalog, or inventory, of previous course syllabi”. They envision a distinct website, or an extension of the Course Schedule Search utility, that would allow prospective and current students to view previous course syllabi. Their goal is to aid student decision-making during the registration process, and reduce the drop/add activity during the first week of the semester. The bank of syllabi could be maintained by student government using files provided by faculty members directly.

Students also inquired about development of a “Classroom Bill of Rights & Responsibilities”. As described to me, this would be a general list of expectations from students as well as from faculty and would cover matters dealing with classroom behavior and etiquette.

I look to the Faculty Senate for direction on how to engage Student Government on these requests.

## **7. Promotion and Tenure:**

The University Board on Rank and Tenure (BRT) is composed of 11 elected faculty representing the academic areas and the Interim Provost who chairs the Board. The BRT met in early January to review the dossiers of 17 faculty candidates. President Keller provided his decisions and the candidates have been informed of the outcomes. Official notification of the candidates who are promoted and/or tenured is made to the campus community only after the 30 appeal window closes; and the appeals, if any are submitted, are resolved.

## **8. Faculty Searches:**

Faculty searches continue into the spring semester. To date we have hired or sent contracts to ten candidates.

## **9. Retention Committee:**

According to preliminary numbers, the retention rate between Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 has increased by one percent. The Retention Committee has been engaged in a variety of initiatives, and its work is showing concrete results.

## **10. Global Initiatives**

### *International Student and Scholar Services:*

- This spring 2018, the Kania School of Management is hosting a visiting professor from the Capital University of Economics and Business (CUEB), Beijing, China.
- The university welcomed eight new exchange students from Colombia, Spain, South Korea and Taiwan, three new graduate students from Saudi Arabia, one new graduate student from India and one new undergraduate student from China.
- This spring we have 75 international students from 23 countries on campus. Of that number 64 are degree-seeking students and 11 are exchange students.

### *Study Abroad:*

- Our office processed 147 students to study abroad during Intersession 2018.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed in January to further develop a University of Scranton off campus site in Uganda. Nursing, PT, Health Administration and Theology departments are spearheading the development with the Uganda Nursing School Bwindi. This initiative could develop into our second global site.

- Department Liaisons will be discussing the proposed academic calendar change and its impact on study abroad.
- New initiatives are being used this semester to encourage students to study abroad.

## **11. Planning & Middle States Accreditation:**

### *Planning & Strategic Plan:*

In December, Planning & Institutional Effectiveness released the second progress report for the *Engaged, Integrated, Global* strategic plan. The online report includes presentation of institutional outcomes, student outcomes, and strategic metrics for the 2016-2017 academic year, including those activities associated with High Impact Practices. Metrics include quantitative key performance indicators identified by the University's Metrics Team.

Work also continues toward identifying outcomes and assessment data related to our strategic planning principles, and the development of a replacement for the current departmental and divisional annual planning and reporting process.

This fall, several campus surveys gathered information related to the strategic plan, planning principles, and planning process that are being considered by the University Planning Committee and other groups (including those involved in self-study) to identify opportunities for improvement.

Progress reports for the fourteen projects funded through the Strategic Initiatives Funding process in spring 2017 are due to the Planning office by March 1. We plan to summarize and reflect broadly on the impact of the strategic initiatives process later this spring.

### *Policy and Governance:*

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. Part of the process has led to the development of a policy category framework to help collate policy documentation across areas.

### *Middle States Self-Study:*

The Middle States Self-study process has progressed steadily over the past few months with Working Groups submitting substantive outlines in early December and the first draft of their reports in late January/early February. The Self-study co-chairs have reviewed the Working Group drafts and are providing feedback as groups further complete their research and analysis and identify potential areas for improvement. The spring semester will involve a series of meetings with key campus committees and the Senates for direct feedback to the Working Group's research, to address any remaining gaps in evidence or provide best practices. Spring will also include opportunities for broad campus review, both during Town Hall meetings and, finally, when the drafts are posted for the campus in May. The Self-Study co-chairs will provide an update at the May Board meeting. Summer will bring new stage of the Self-study work, as the Steering Committee Co-chairs will compile the individual reports into a final Self-study draft.

## **12. Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs**

A call for submissions went out to students and faculty inviting those conducting research to present their work in the form of a poster presentation during the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Student Scholars on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Acceptable student scholarly work includes

thesis research, research conducted as part of the Faculty/Student Research Program or resulting from a President's Fellowship for summer Research, and research or other scholarly projects carried out as independent study.

### 13. Curriculum Approvals:

#### New Course

INTD 115: Legal Studies Fundamentals  
ENLT 343J: Shakespeare Performed

#### Date Posted

12/11/17  
9/11/17

#### Course Change:

PS 219: Survey of Latin American Politics  
CJ 311: GIS for Public Safety  
CJ 313: Crime Analysis

5/4/17  
12/18/17  
12/18/17

### 14. College Updates:

#### College of Arts and Sciences

- Our Chapter of Phi Sigma Tau will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual undergraduate philosophy conference on March 2 and 3 on campus. The keynote speaker is Peter van Inwagen, Ph.D., the John Cardinal O'Hara Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. Three students from the University of Scranton and three students from other colleges were selected to present papers.
- The 12<sup>th</sup> annual World Cultures TA Talk featuring our Fulbright Teaching Assistants from Morocco, Germany and Mexico will be held on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### Panuska College of Professional Studies

- Master in Health Administration (MHA) program will be nationally recognized by The Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) and Canon Solutions America for its sustainability initiatives in the context of corporate responsibility and Jesuit pedagogy. The MHA program will receive the prestigious CAHME/Canon Award for Sustainability in Healthcare Management Education and Practice at the March 25th CACHE Congress in Chicago.
- This year's Leahy Award will be presented to Dr. Andrea Mantione and her staff in honor of the 15th Anniversary of the Leahy Community Health and Family Center and the 10th Anniversary of the Edward R. Leahy Jr Center Clinic for the Uninsured. The award will be presented at the 2018 PCPS Community Celebration on April 10, 2018 in The Kane Forum.
- The MHA program was awarded a 2017 CAHME/Aramark Innovation Grant to support students' participation in national healthcare competitions.
- The PCPS Exercise Science Students won 2nd place at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference for the American College of Sports Medicine. Kudos to Patrick Barney, Angela Hubert, Abby Wagner and Anthony Puglisi.
- Department of Exercise Science and Sport had their on-site accreditation visit and all standards were met. The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) accredits programs upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation for the Exercise Sciences (COAES). See [www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org)

- The National Association of Long Care Administrator Boards granted NAB accreditation to the B.S. in Long Term Care Administration from June 16, 2017 to June 15, 2022.
- Dr. Daniel West, faculty and chairperson in Health Administration and Human Resources, was elected as the Chair of the Global Accreditation Council with the Commission on Accreditation of Health Management Education.