

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Donald R. Boomgaarden, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: December 4, 2015

RE: Provost's Report

I. University Planning Committee

The UPC has engaged the faculty (particularly those who assisted in drafting the plan) in further conversation. A message from the UPC on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the concerns raised in the recent Faculty Senate Climate Study is forthcoming.

Scorecards outlining centers of responsibility, targets and measures of success, and other implementation details for each theme are being developed by the colleges and units. The UPC, President's Cabinet and Strategic Plan Implementation Team will continually monitor implementation and establish progress reporting. The comprehensive resource review process will create the financial flexibility necessary to address our long term financial issues.

II. CGCE Transition Update

The CGCE Transition Team, headed by Meg Cullen-Brown, has made much progress in developing a draft plan which will result in improved service to our students and streamlining in personnel. She and Helen Steger will be making a presentation to the Faculty Senate at the December meeting.

III. Rankings

The University of Scranton was recently ranked at the top of various "best of" lists. [Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program](#) put Scranton among the top 100 colleges in the nation for the increase in annual earnings it contributes to its graduates; [MONEY magazine](#) included Scranton on its national list of "10 Great Colleges You Can Apply to For Free," and [Business Insider](#) ranked the University's dining facilities and residence halls among the best in the nation.

IV. Office of Educational Assessment

Dr. Olsen is currently working with key faculty to complete GE assessment projects that are underway. The results will be presented in the *Monitoring Report* for Middle States, due on April 1, 2016.

Ms. Yerkes presented to the Assessment Advisory Committee about progress on the Middle States Monitoring Report. A committee was convened to complete the report in response to Middle States recommendations from September 2014.

The Assessment Platform Committee chaired by Dr. Vanessa Talerico, made a recommendation to work with PCPS programs to “pilot” a platform in 2016-17 with *Live Text*.

The Directors and Faculty Fellows are meeting with program directors/faculty in CAS for refinement of Program Assessment Plans

The Associate Provost and OEA are preparing to begin the interview process for a Faculty Fellow from CAS to fill the slot left open by Dr. Dammer. A request for applications was distributed to all full-time faculty in CAS.

V. **International Programs**

Eighteen students are spending the entire fall 2015 semester abroad: Italy (4), Denmark (1), France (2), Ireland (4), England (2), Scotland (1), Korea (1), Australia (1), China (1), and South America (1). A total of around 250 students will be studying abroad this year as participants in various programs and courses sponsored by the University or in collaboration with other schools.

VI. **Office of Research Services and Programs**

The Faculty Research Committee approved 9 Internal Funding Proposals.

Carol Cote	<i>Visual, haptic and cross-modal exploration strategies in children with and without learning disabilities</i>
Paul Cutrufello Michael Landram	<i>The Effect of Exercise-Induced Fluid Loss on Percent Body Fat Using Multiple Methods: Skinfolds, Bioelectrical Impedance, Air Displacement Plethysmography, Ultrasound, and Dual X-Ray Absorptiometry</i>
Roy Domenico	<i>Italy at War 1935-1948</i>
Ann Feeney	<i>“Consider The Kids”: The Effectiveness Of A Fetal Effects Education Video On Pregnant Women’s Knowledge, Self-Efficacy And Motivation Related To Tobacco Use</i>
Timothy Foley	<i>Lipotoxicity: A Biochemical Rationale for Dietary Approaches to Cancer</i>
George Gomez	<i>Identifying the cellular signaling pathway involved with retinoic acid-induced differentiation in neuroblastoma cells</i>
Joan Grossman Danielle Argio	<i>The Use of Wearable Technology and High Intensity Interval Exercise Regarding Anthropometric and Body Composition Changes Among Post-Menopausal Women</i>
Katherine Stumpo	<i>Characterization of Plant Pollen Protein N-Glycans using Mass Spectrometry</i>

Hank Willenbrink

Catalan Publics, Catalan Theatricality: Salas Alternatives and Contemporary Barcelona

The following sabbaticals have been approved:

Fall 2016

Jafor Chowdhury
Michael Hardisky
John Hill
Sharon Hudacek
Lisa Lesneski
Daniel Sweeney
Nabil Tamimi
Daniel West

Spring 2017

Andrew Berger
Mary Ann Foley
Timothy Foley
Irene Goll
George Gomez

Spring cont.

Len Gougeon
Teresa Grettano
Oliver Morgan
Rose Sebastianelli
Marc Shapiro
Stephen Whittaker

Academic Year 2016-2017

Richard Larsen
Matthew Meyer
Ann Pang-White
Charles Pinches
Margarete Zalon

Intersession 2017 & Summer 2017

George Aulisio

VII. Career Development and Internship Initiatives

- First Destination Survey (Class of 2015)
 - *Knowledge rate* (knowledge of first destination career outcomes) is significantly higher at 90.5% v. 76% for Class of 2014.
 - Current *success rate* (which means that they have attained their goal of employment, continued education, or "other") is at 83%. This is phenomenal when national rates are in the 60's.
- The Royal Experience Internship Program
 - \$31,000 has been pledged thus far to support students needing to pursue unpaid internship opportunities, beginning in the summer 2016. Our goal, in partnership with University Advancement, is \$40,000.
- Site Visits
 - There will be five 5 industry site visits over Intersession - 3 in NYC (PwC, EY, and ZenithOptimedia) and 2 in Philadelphia (PwC and RSM) - 25 spots for each visit. The focus is on underclassmen for networking opportunities and education.
- Progress/Comparison Reports v. this Time Last Year
 - Student Traffic: 23% increase
 - Internships: 13% increase
 - Full-time Opportunities: 28% increase
 - Recruiters/Registered Employers: 72% increase (due to optimizing College Central Network capabilities and tracking protocols)

VIII. Curriculum

The following curriculum proposal has been approved.

Program Change	Date Posted
EXSC Clinical Track	10/30/15
Health Informatics	10/30/15

IX. College Highlights

College of Arts and Sciences

- Christopher L. Kilner who is pursuing a triple major in biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, environmental science and philosophy, and a minor in political science has been chosen as a 2017 George J. Mitchell Scholar. He is one of twelve in the country.
- Dr. Ami Radunskaya of Pomona College gave a talk titled “DDEs, DCs, and Doses: Mathematical Approaches to Designing Cancer Vaccines on November 30th.

Kania School of Management

- The KSOM site visit with an AACSB International maintenance of accreditation peer review team went well. We expect to receive a report from the Maintenance of Accreditation Committee next January or February.
- Dr. Brian Carpenter has been named the inaugural PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers) LLP Accounting Research Chair. This chair was established in 2015 by Scranton alumni associated with PwC to recognize and support excellence in accounting research at the University.
- Dr. Deborah Gougeon was elected president of the Pennsylvania Economics Association.

Panuska College of Professional Studies

- Our 2015-2016 Strategic Plan with the following College Level Outcomes:
 - Act on continuous improvement based on an education that is engaged, integrated and global for academic excellence.
 - Implement diverse opportunities for students to be engaged in transformative and reflective academic, social, spiritual and service-oriented experiences that are intentionally designed to challenge them to be men and women of faith and service to their communities.
 - Provide substance to our University’s strategic mission and values through a continuous assessment plan through our many accrediting bodies and the PCPS quality-control assessment plan.
- Avi Melamed, Israel-Middle East Strategic Intelligence Analyst and Fellow of Middle East Security and Affairs for the Eisenhower Institute was on campus October 14th to discuss highlights of his recently published book, “Inside the Middle East” Making Sense of the Most Dangerous and Complicated Region on Earth.” The talk aired on WVIA for three months.

Weinberg Memorial Library

- Scranton Family Papers Scanathon. In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the City of Scranton, the Weinberg Memorial Library has organized a collaborative digitization project with the University of Scranton Department of History, Royals Historical Society, Scranton Public Library, Lackawanna Historical Society, and State Library of Pennsylvania. On the weekend of October 24, University of Scranton student volunteers will digitize and describe the first two volumes of the Lackawanna Historical Society's Scranton Family Papers collection.
- Beginning in Spring 2016 the Weinberg Memorial Library's digital collections will be included in the DPLA (Digital Public Library of America), accompanied by digital materials from institutions across the state. Students, teachers, scholars, and citizens can use DPLA to explore over 11 million items from American libraries, archives, and museums.