

TO: Faculty Senate Report

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

DATE: March 5, 2021

RE: Provost's Report for March

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### **Spring Semester**

As we come to the end of Week Five, the number of positive cases and positivity rates on campus continue to remain low, but it is important that we continue to closely follow the Royal Safe Together Plan to ensure the health and safety of everyone and to minimize the interruption to academic progress. The new communication system to notify faculty about students who have been placed in isolation or quarantine is in place and should be providing a more efficient and effective process for letting faculty know if a student has been told by contact tracers to not attend class and for how long. We welcome any feedback on this procedure.

We have begun planning for May Commencement and are exploring our options for celebrating our graduating students within the safety guidelines. We hope to have a better sense of the format of this ceremony by the end of March.

### **Diversity and Inclusion**

By the Faculty Senate meeting next Friday, you should have received an update email from the President's Cabinet regarding Diversity and Inclusion efforts on campus last fall and this spring. While this continues to remain a high priority for us, we hope to work with faculty, staff and students to continue to be more intentional and strategic about our campus-wide approach to ensuring a welcoming campus. Issues of racial justice will continue to be at the core of these efforts.

I am grateful to faculty members of the Council on Diversity and Inclusion who have begun to meet with me to plan for faculty development in this area: Jess Nolan, Jean Harris, Tara Fay, Paul Datti, and Peter Andersen. They were also joined by Liz Garcia, Michelle Maldonado and Amy Simolo. 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. We welcome your ideas and suggestions and hope to make this an inclusive process. We will continue to try to publicize and communicate different events through the website and campus announcements. For a review of past, present and future activities, please see:

- <https://www.scranton.edu/equity-diversity/faculty-resources.shtml> (scroll to bottom of page)
- <https://www.scranton.edu/academics/cas/soc-cj/cbl/anti-racism-resources.shtml> (Office of Community Based Learning)
- <https://www.scranton.edu/about/diversity-inclusion/events.shtml> (upcoming events)

### **Board of Trustees**

At the Board of Trustees Education Committee meeting on February 19, Dr. Kelley presented the proposal for the MS Applied Behavior Analysis and Dr. Baylow presented the Communication Sciences and Disorder, BS proposal. The committee unanimously approved both proposals.

At the full Board of Trustees meeting I presented information on the new academic program approval process, the discontinuation of a program process and the GE review that we are undertaking.

### **Associate Provost Search**

The Search Committee met on February 26 to discuss the timeline for the search, review the job description, and discuss where the position should be posted to reach a wide and diverse applicant pool. I hope that the position will have been posted by the Faculty Senate meeting.

Dean Michelle Maldonado has agreed to chair the committee. Committee members are:

- Dean Maldonado
- Ms. Julie Schumacher Cohen
- Dr. Maria Squire
- Dr. Paul Cutrufello
- Dr. Douglas Boyle
- Dr. Yamile Silva
- Mr. Nicholas Truncale
- Ms. Catherine Murphy

### **Faculty Searches**

We have successfully completed six faculty searches and are very excited about the next cohort of incoming faculty.

Alicia Hatcher	Assistant Professor	English & Theatre
Neelam Lahankar	Faculty Specialist	Chemistry
Nicole Hoskins	Assistant Professor	Theology/Religious Studies
Rachel Frissell	Faculty Specialist	Physics/Engineering
Dana Brookover	Assistant Professor	Counseling & Human Services
Natalie Gilboy	Faculty Specialist	Nursing

### **Global Education**

In addition to the table below, we have 14 new graduate international students who are able to obtain their F1 visa this spring 2021, ten out of 14 were from India. The others were from Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the DR Congo and Pakistan. We also received four exchange students from Taiwan, five from Korea and Sweden.

Spring 2021 International Student Enrollment							
Country	Graduate			Undergraduate			Grand Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Bangladesh	1		1				1
Burundi		1	1				1
China (PRC)	1	1	2		1	1	3
DR Congo	1		1				1
Ghana	1		1				1
India	6	7	13				13
Ireland				1		1	1
Japan		1	1				1
Jordan	1		1				1
Malawi		1	1				1
Nepal				1		1	1
Nigeria	1		1				1
Pakistan	1	1	2	1		1	3
Philippines					1	1	1
Russia				1		1	1
Saudi Arabia	16	3	19	2		2	21
South Korea				1	2 (EV)	3 (2 EV)	3 ( 2 EV)
Sweden					1 EV	1 EV	1 EV
Taiwan					1 EV	1 EV	1 EV
Vietnam		1	1	1	1	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7 (4 EV)</b>	<b>15 (4 EV)</b>	<b>60 (4 EV)</b>

Notes:

1. EV=Exchange students pursuing a full-time, non-degree seeking program
2. International students are defined here as students taking on-campus, full-time, credit bearing courses
3. We have two Chinese undergraduate students who are not in F1 student status, studying remotely in China.
4. We have one undergraduate student not in F1 student status, studying in Cayman Islands
5. We have one graduate student not in F1 student status, studying in Saudi Arabia
6. We have one undergraduate student in F1 status studying remotely in S Korea (included in the enrollment data)
7. We have one graduate student in F1 status studying remotely in Vietnam (included in the enrollment data)

**Curriculum**

The following curriculum proposals were approved:

**New Course**

HPRO 420: Interprofessional Seminar in Health Promotion  
 SLP 503: Pediatric Language Disorders  
 SLP 506: Language & Literacy  
 SLP 509: Speech Sound Production & Disorders  
 SLP 512: Diagnosis & Evaluation in SLP  
 SLP 515: Aural Rehab & Implantable Devices

**Date Posted**

2/3/21  
 2/10/21  
 2/10/21  
 2/10/21  
 2/10/21  
 2/10/21

ENLT 310J: Literature of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	11/25/20
PS 325: Politics of the Budgetary Process	2/3/21
PS 337: Religion, Politics and Public Service	2/3/21

**Course Change**

COMM 210: Logical and Rhetorical Analysis	3/25/20
COMM 415: Senior Seminar	3/25/20
COMM 316: Communication Ethics	3/25/20

**Program Deletion**

Certified Advanced Practice Nurses Track in MSN	10/14/20
Adult Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist Track in MSN	10/14/20

**New Programs**

Health Promotion Concentration	2/10/21
Applied Behavior Analysis, MS	1/22/21
Communication Sciences & Disorders, BS	1/8/21

**Other Updates**

- The AACSB has extended the Kania School of Management’s accreditation through 2025. Dean Beldona credits the success of the AACSB accreditation review to the scholarship and passion for teaching of the faculty; the care given to students by staff, alumni and business partners; and the motivation and aptitude of our students.
- The University of Scranton was awarded a \$1.5 million Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant to support renovations of Hyland Hall to create new laboratory and classroom space for the new mechanical engineering program. The facility renovations are necessary to support the multidisciplinary, high-impact learning design of the undergraduate engineering program that will prepare students to meet the modern-day workforce needs of the field. The renovated space in Hyland Hall will include four engineering laboratories; a student classroom; a garage; staff offices and equipment to allow students to learn using the latest simulation and modeling techniques.