TO: PCPS Dean’s Conference
FROM: Diane S. Muniz
DATE: December 12, 2013
SUBJECT: Summary of the November 26, 2013 PCPS Dean’s Conference meeting

Present: V. Castellanos, R. Dalgin (representing L. Eschbach), D. Hair, P. Harrington, P. Leininger (representing J. Sanko), M. Morgan, R. Schwenk, G. Wenze, D. West
Absent: A. Mantione, D. Posegate
Guests: W. Burke, J. Roback

The Dean opened the meeting by reading an excerpt from the Vatican conference brochure—“The Church in the Service of Sick Elderly People.”

The summary of the October 31, 2013 meeting was approved.

Dr. Marlene Morgan explained the proposal submitted to the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee regarding the discontinuance of the Occupational Therapy for Practitioners, MS program. This program provided a one-year credential enhancement for those people who graduated with a Bachelor’s degree close to the time the transition to a Master’s degree requirement took place. The need for this kind of program no longer exists now that all OT students graduate with a Master’s degree.

The Dean informed the group that the graduate school submitted a proposal (which was passed) that states...“Following the completion of 60 semester hours, an undergraduate student may make application to an Accelerated or Combined program provided he/she has earned a cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all coursework and has earned a cumulative GPA of 3.00 in his/her major. A graduate program may establish more rigorous requirements for admittance into an Accelerated or Combined program. Once admitted into an Accelerated or Combined program the undergraduate student must maintain a 3.00 undergraduate cumulative GPA; a 3.00 cumulative GPA in his/her major; a 3.00 cumulative GPA in all graduate coursework. Failure to maintain any of these standards will result in the undergraduate student being removed from an Accelerated or Combined program.”

Concerns about this proposal and undergraduate students were expressed. How will the students be monitored to make sure they are achieving the requirements of the accelerated or combined program? Are we setting the students up for failure by overloading them in the years when they may have more difficult courses coming up? Should we have an internal policy as a College saying that if a person only has a 3.0 with 60 credits when admitted to the program there should be a limit as to how many graduate classes that person can take in one semester? Accelerated or combined programs are available in Counseling & Human Services, HAHR, Education and Nursing departments. Some departments have elected to keep their current
standards (Education, Counseling, and Nursing). These standards need to be placed in both the undergraduate and graduate catalogs and wording must be consistent. It was pointed out that the admission criteria document does not state that the 60 credits have to be earned credits at The University of Scranton. The Dean asked that departments discuss the accelerated and combined programs and their current standards for admission into these programs.

Mr. William Burke, Director of Financial Aid, addressed the new financial aid guidelines and the things we need to consider before and while new programs are being developed. Mr. Burke explained that the University changed its definition of full time enrollment in graduate programs to accommodate the financial needs of the students, especially the online students. Another consideration when offering combined programs is that some financial aid programs are restricted to graduate students. Therefore, when a student is in a combined program, you need to be careful not to push students into graduate level status because you would be robbing them of their financial aid. The level is very important. He mentioned that for graduate students, 3 credits is the minimum number of credits to be considered part time. Having a Cap stone course is also problematic as you are saving one undergraduate course that is required to meet the bachelor’s degree requirement until the end of the program so the student never becomes a graduate student and never get access to the expanded graduate student loan. (A junior and senior student can borrow $7500 each year in the Stafford Loan program; a graduate student can borrow $22,500 in a year.)

Mr. Joseph Roback, Associate Vice President of Admissions & Enrollment, gave an update on Admissions. He thanked everyone for what they do for his operation. He indicated that parents and students look at colleges differently than years ago. They look at career fields, the amount of debt they are graduating with, and whether the college is a good investment for them. Demographics and economy play a role in everything. We need to operate in a forward thinking manner. Currently enrollment in PCPS majors is increasing. In the future the University plans to increase their financial aid packages. Mr. Roback stated that a long term solution to meeting demands is to offer new programs. Mr. Roback addressed the question about where we are with bringing international students on the undergraduate level to campus as well as guaranteed placement.

The February 27th PCPS Dean’s Conference meeting will be open to all faculty and staff of PCPS.

c: Academic Deans
PCPS Faculty & Staff
Provost
Mr. William Burke
Mr. Joseph Roback