

TO: Faculty Senate Report

FROM: Patricia Harrington, R.N., Ed.D.
Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: March 13, 2014

RE: Provost's Report for March 14, 2014

I. ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT:

Applications are up from last year, fall open house events were well attended, and the Royal Nights program for accepted students added a third session.

II. MIDDLE STATES UPDATE:

Summary of Assessment Activities since November 2013

- a. The faculty handbook language requiring course learning outcomes in every course syllabus was passed (Vote 126-4). Outcomes are now required to be included in course syllabi.
- b. CAS continued development of its college-level assessment plan. Additionally, spring courses include assessment of learning outcomes; results will be mapped to the General Education Program Learning Outcomes, the College-level outcomes and the Institutional Learning Outcomes.
- c. College of Arts and Sciences (CAS): January intersession assessment of learning outcomes. Twenty faculty members from nine departments participated in an Assessment workshop on student learning outcomes. Data from 23 courses (370 students) has been collected and is currently under review in CAS.
- d. Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE) offered two January workshops for faculty on "Student Learning Outcomes", and provided individual consultation to eight faculty and at three departmental meetings.
- e. The Provost held a "Brown Bag" luncheon meeting for faculty to discuss "**Assessment**" (February 25, 2014).
- f. PCPS, KSOM and CAS Deans and faculty will offer "**Best Practices in Assessment**" programs during April for the University community.
- g. The Consultant's report was shared with deans (February 19th) and faculty (February 21st). The deans and assessment staff from each college discussed the recommendations at their meeting on February 27th, and the Faculty Senate's Executive Committee participated in the discussion with this group at a meeting on March 6th.

Report on Visit by Middle States Consultant (February 11-12, 2014)

The University contracted with Michael Middaugh, Higher Education Consultant to review our work on assessment of student learning. The focus of the consultation visit was to seek Mr. Middaugh's guidance on how the University should address the Middle States warning. The consultant met with 20 University faculty and

administrators in small groups over two days. In his report he offered five recommendations, key being the creation of an Office of Educational Assessment led by a Faculty Director reporting to the Provost Office and based in Academic Affairs. Options for this plan were presented in the report and included Faculty Fellows who will work with departments and faculty in developing assessment strategies. The Office of Educational Assessment would support the systematic collection of data on student learning outcomes and summaries of how the data are utilized to make improvements in individual courses and academic programs. Roles and responsibilities for the Director and Faculty Fellows are under development. In addition, an Assessment Advisory Committee will serve to develop and improve effective assessment of the student learning experience through collaboration with the Director and Faculty Fellows. Membership will include faculty who are selected by the Faculty Senate.

The consultant stressed that the faculty are responsible for assessment and for improvement of the curriculum. He recommended the implementation of curriculum mapping to identify how course learning outcomes connect to program outcomes and to one or more institutional learning outcomes (ILOs). Additionally, he recommended expanding the model used for assessment of student learning outcomes for January 2014 courses for the current spring semester courses. This will include offering faculty workshops during the spring and summer months and on a regular basis throughout the year to support faculty efforts to fully engage in comprehensive assessment of student learning.

III. FACULTY SEARCHES:

We are conducting twelve faculty searches; as of this date three have been successfully concluded.

IV. DIVERSITY INITIATIVES:

The Office of Equity and Diversity and the Diversity Initiative Review Board are pleased to announce a new application which features an increased funding maximum of \$5,000 per project, and an extended term of one semester plus one year to use the funds. Applications will be accepted throughout the spring semester, however, funding is limited. Early submission is advised. Please visit www.scranton.edu/diversity to access guidelines and application.

V. GRANT PROPOSALS/CLAVIUS FUNDING:

We have received three proposals for Clavius Funding and fourteen proposals for Summer Grants.

VI. PROVOST FACULTY ENHANCEMENT AWARDS

We have received fifteen nominations for the Provost Faculty Enhancement Awards. The Provost Advisory Group will assist the Provost and Associate Provost in making the final determination on the awards recipients. The awards will be presented at the Faculty Appreciation Day dinner scheduled for April 4th from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in The DeNaples Center's Ballroom.

VII. CREDIT BEARING INTERNATIONAL STUDY COURSES:

Over Intersession, there were seven faculty led travel courses that took sixty-eight students to Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Taiwan, and Uganda. The courses were led by twelve faculty members.

VIII. CURRICULUM APPROVALS:

Course Change:	Date Posted
ENLT 395: Travel Seminar: Sacred Ireland	11/25/13
NURS 562: Family Clinical Practicum III	11/26/13
NURS 552: Family Clinical Practicum II	11/26/13
NURS 563: Advanced Theory of Adult Health Nursing I	11/26/13
NURS 564: Advanced Applications of Adult Health Nursing I	11/26/13
NURS 571: Family Health Synthesis	11/26/13
NURS 573: Advanced Theory of Adult Health Nursing II	11/26/13
NURS 574: Advanced Applications of Adult Health	11/26/13
EDUC 246: Interdisciplinary Assessment in High School	1/13/14
EDUC 370: Inclusionary Classroom Practices for Secondary Teachers	1/13/14
 New Course:	
BIOL 479: Portfolio Completion	11/22/13
 Program Change:	
Biology Major Revision	11/22/13
Adult Health Nursing	12/3/13
Communication Major	12/17/13
 Delete Course:	
BIOL 450: Electron Microscopy	11/22/13
 Delete Program:	
Occupational Therapy for Practitioners MS	12/10/13

IX. COLLEGE UPDATES:**The College of Arts and Sciences**

- The Department of Mathematics is hosting the regional meeting of the Mathematical Association of America on April 26th. About 100 faculty and students from colleges and universities in Eastern PA and Delaware are expected to attend. Colin Adams, Ph.D. from Williams College and Ruth Charney, Ph.D. from Brandeis University will be giving lectures.

The Panuska College of Professional Studies:

- CACREP site visit took place on February 25, 2014 for the Department of Counseling and Human Services Programs. The Clinical Mental Health Counseling Graduate Program (currently accredited as a Community Counseling program is seeking CMHC accreditation) and the School Counseling Graduate Program plus the graduate CORE-accredited

Rehabilitation Counseling Program and an undergraduate Counseling and Human Services program accredited by the Council for Standards in Human Services Education (CSHSE) are the programs in the Department of Counseling and Human Services being reviewed by CACREP.

- ACOTE site visit is schedule for May 2014 for the Occupational Therapy Program. The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) accepted the self-study report on February 5, 2014.

Weinberg Memorial Library:

- The Jay Nathan, Ph.D. Visiting Scholar Lecture Series established at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Memorial Library invites international scholars and professionals from economically challenged or politically suppressed nations around the world to visit The University of Scranton to address issues that will enlighten and benefit students, faculty and the community-at-large.

The Inaugural Lecture titled *Kazakhstan & Central Asia: History, Culture, Politics & Economy* will be followed by a panel discussion is scheduled for April 2, 2014. Panelists are His Excellency Kairat Umarov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America, William Courtney, senior principal for policy strategy at Computer Sciences Corporation and retired Foreign Service Officer, Nancy Neill, Founder of the Atlanta Communications Group, LLC, and Dr. Jay Nathan, tenured professor of management at St. John's University.

X. EDUCATION FOR JUSTICE:

Education for Justice and Dr. Timothy Cannon in Psychology hosted a viewing of *Inequality for All* on Thursday, February 20th. This was a national event, simultaneously happening at over 150 campuses nationwide. The film investigates widening income inequality and its effect on the United States' economy and democracy.