

TO: Faculty Senate

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

DATE: February 4, 2022

SUBJECT: Faculty Senate Report

Spring Welcome

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new semester. I hope that your holidays were replete with rest, rejuvenation, and time with loved ones. The new year brought us the new intense strain of Omicron and so we must continue to pay special attention to caring for each other even while we return to the student-centered, academic excellence that is characteristic of our Ignatian mission.

Loss of Colleague, Matt Reavy

We are grieving the passing of our colleague, Matt Reavy, Associate Professor in the Department of Communication and Media. Matt was a graduate of The University of Scranton. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1984 and his master's degree in 1992 from Scranton. He earned his doctorate at the University of Missouri, Columbia. He returned to his alma mater to join the faculty in 1998, having previously served as an assistant professor at Louisiana State University. He also worked as a journalist for the Scranton *Tribune*, the Hometown Publications chain of weekly newspapers and the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting.

Please keep Matt's family in your prayers in the days ahead. He is survived by his wife, Susan, and sons, Declan, Samuel and Benjamin. Benjamin is currently a student at the University. Also, please especially pray and support the Communication department as they grieve the loss of their colleague while at the same time supporting their students.

Royal Safe Together

Unfortunately, the pandemic continues to impact our daily lives. The University's decisions about how to respond have been difficult, but we will continue to work with faculty-elected leadership and also receive your individual feedback, recognizing that there are varied views about the University's response. We will continue to listen and make decisions based on the best available professional guidance for the health and safety of our community.

You have been sent the updated health and safety protocols in the [Royals Back Together](#) plan for the University. If you have questions, please reach out to your dean or department chair. **You can always feel free to email me with any specific concerns or questions.**

The University will continue to require higher grade masks (e.g. N95, KN95 or KF94) or double masking (e.g. a cloth mask worn over a surgical mask) in all indoor settings on campus. We will continue to monitor community spread and may relax this higher masking standard if possible.

We will again have students who will be quarantined or isolated this semester. We will follow the same process as the Fall semester in notifying you. Nick Truncale, Director of Student Retention and Completion, will send notification emails each weekday morning based on the information that he receives from Student Health Services the day before and overnight. The notification email will identify the student's anticipated last day of absence. Should the student be permitted to return to class earlier than anticipated or should their quarantine need to be extended, the student will provide you with contract tracer verification. We are asking again this semester for you to accommodate students who are quarantined or isolated. You only need to provide these accommodations, though, if you receive official notification. If students reach out to you before you receive this notification, please ask them to contact Student Health Services. It is possible there will be a 24-hour delay before you receive an official notification email.

From the start, the University has recognized that the challenge to keep each other safe through this pandemic is a shared responsibility shaped by individual decisions. We encourage all of you to continue to take steps to keep yourselves, the University community and our region safe and healthy in the coming semester.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

While we continue to react to the pandemic, the important issues of diversity, the important issues of DEI remain a top priority for our University and for the Provost's Office.

At the forefront of DEI strategies is the Diversity and Inclusion Planning process. Members of the planning team were gratified by the volume and depth of insights shared via the fall campus review period by the Senate and other groups, and have utilized this feedback to update the draft plan that was shared with the Cabinet in December. The Cabinet is currently reviewing this final draft. In addition to the new plan document, this process led to recommendations to update our Strategic Plan's Diversity and Inclusion goal language to more fully incorporate the term "equity" where appropriate. The UPC is currently reviewing a recommendation to this effect.

The HEDS Diversity and Inclusion Needs Assessment results were shared on December 16, 2021. For more information, you can find the announcement [here](#). It contains a link to the survey report and complete results.

The Institutional Black History Group (a subcommittee of the Provost's Council for Diversity and Inclusion) is making progress on better understanding the Black history of the University. During the Fall semester, archival research was conducted by students in a history course taught by Dr. Aiala Levy. The students presented their findings to campus constituents. The goal is to continue work on this project into 2022 and beyond to offer a fuller picture of the University's Black history for ongoing campus reference, reflection, and action.

A number of important DEI events will be happening this Spring semester, which we will continue to advertise. I will also continue discussion with the working group on DEI faculty development. I am grateful to all who continue to support these initiatives and challenge the University to become a more inclusive and welcoming community.

Carnegie Classification

We have discussed at Faculty Senate the possibility that the University might automatically move into a different Carnegie classification because our number of doctoral graduates. Due to a decline in the number of doctoral graduates as a result of pandemic delays, we ended up staying below the threshold for the doctoral classification. We will stay in the Master's Comprehensive category, which maintains our high regional ranking in U.S. News and World Report.

Strategic Planning

Following its approval and launch in fall 2020, members of the University community have been working together to move the [Strategic Plan](#) forward. We continue to follow our communications plan in sharing information about the plan's implementation and progress with members of the University community and beyond. In addition to campus email, news and other periodic publications, a primary medium for this work is our www.scranton.edu/strategicplan web site. As outlined in the plan's [implementation roadmap](#), annual and periodic progress reporting will include reflection on the status of performance metrics (including, for example, student enrollment and persistence data, diversity and inclusion measures, high impact practice offerings and participation, and faculty and student research activity); summary of outcomes, initiatives, and achievements, including those provided through the Annual Reporting process; and other performance indicators and results from internal assessments and measures of student experience and satisfaction. The Offices of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness and Institutional Reporting and Analytics are currently reviewing the University survey schedule to align both content and cycle of assessment with our strategic goals. As part of this process, the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) will be taking place this spring, and will include an optional supplemental module on Diversity and Inclusion to gather further data about student experiences on this topic.

In addition to internal operational progress reports that will be monitored by the University Planning Committee (UPC) and President's Cabinet, our first public progress report will be available on the strategic plan web site in the coming weeks. To be sure our compilation is as complete as possible, to share information about initiatives that relate to the plan that you may be part of, or to update us on surveys or assessments you may be exploring that could provide data about the strategic plan, please contact Kate Yerkes or click the following [link](#).

College-level plans are also moving forward, including new plans for the College of Arts and Sciences and the Weinberg Memorial Library. The Annual Planning and Reporting process is a central part of our planning model, outlining college, divisional, and departmental operational opportunities and support for the strategic plan, and goals relative to each individual unit's disciplinary and professional needs. The Annual Report cycle will open on or around the first Monday in April, and instructions for the process will be shared with department heads in March. Following recommendations from our Diversity and Inclusion planning process, in addition to existing planning, assessment, and resource content, the Report will be updated to include space for departments to reflect on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

Update on Administrative Searches

Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences

David Dzurec, Ph.D. was named the Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences beginning January 1, 2022. He has been a faculty member since 2008 and prior to serving as Interim Associate Dean for CAS was chair of the History Department (2015-2021).

Vice President for Mission and Ministry

We expect to conduct an initial round of interviews during the first week of February and on-campus visits will follow in the hope of identifying finalists for the position by late February or early March. We expect the new vice president to begin this summer.

Vice President for Enrollment Management

The search committee will conduct semi-finalist interviews in late February with qualified candidates. We hope to invite three finalists to campus in early March with the goal of successfully concluding the search soon after. We anticipate the successful candidate to begin in June or early July.

Dean of Weinberg Memorial Library

We restarted this search last fall and have already completed semi-finalist interviews with six qualified candidates. We will bring 2 of these candidates (one of the recently scheduled candidates withdrew) to campus the week of February 7. We are grateful to George Aulisio, who is currently serving as the Interim Dean.

Dean of the Kania School of Management

We began to advertise this position in December 2021 and are pleased with the depth of candidates that we have received. The search committee will conduct semi-finalist interviews in mid-February with finalists coming to campus the weeks of February 21 and 28. We hope to have this search concluded by mid-March. Much gratitude to Michael Mensah for returning to serve as interim dean for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Dean of the Panuska College of Professional Studies

We also began to advertise this position in December 2021 and, again, are very happy with the strength of the candidates we have received so far. The search committee will conduct semi-finalist interviews in mid-to-late February with finalist interviews on campus the weeks of February 28 or March 7. We are thankful to Vicki Castellanos for serving as the interim dean for the 2022 spring semester.

Board on Rank and Tenure

The Board on Rank and Tenure committee held formal meetings on January 7 and 8 to review the applications of twelve candidates. The President received the recommendations from the Board, the candidate's department, the deans, and the Provost/VPAA and has made his decision. I have notified the candidates of the decision. Official campus notification of the candidates will take place only after the 30-day appeal window closes; and appeals, if any are submitted and resolved.

Faculty Development

A call for summer grant applications was sent out to all full-time faculty. Please submit your application electronically to provost@scranton.edu or by campus mail to the Associate Provost's office no later than March 11, 2022.

A call for proposals for Clavius Fund interdisciplinary Faculty Seminars was sent to all full-time faculty. Proposals should be submitted electronically to provost@scranton.edu or by campus mail to the Associate Provost's office no later than March 11, 2022.

Fulbright Update

Six graduating seniors completed the application process for the Fulbright this fall. They had worked on their research proposals, personal essays, etc. with Dr. Susan Trussler all summer and were interviewed by the University's Fulbright Committee in late September as a final step. The National Screening Committee(s) reviewed the 9,400 applications in late fall and selected the National Semi-Finalists. On January 26th we learned that five of our six applicants have been named as National Semi-Finalists. Their files have now been forwarded to the appropriate countries where final selection will occur in the coming months. We anticipate final decisions by the end of May.

Our National Semi-Finalists are:

Peter Amicucci to Finland - Peter is major in Operations Management, with minors in Mathematics and Business Analytics. His application is to Lappeenranta University of Technology to pursue an MS in Economics and Business with a concentration in Supply Management. His project is entitled "Sustainable Supply Chains in Tourism."

Isaiah Livelsberger to Guatemala - Isaiah is a double major in International Studies and Philosophy, with a minor in Spanish and concentration in Latin American Studies. His proposed research is "Judicial Reform in Guatemala: Strengthening Institutions in a post-CICIG Era."

Laura Miller to Germany - Laura is a Neuroscience major and member of the University Honors Program. Her proposed research is "Neural Mechanisms of immune-stress response in ant colonies. " She will conduct the research at the University of Konstanz.

Crysta O'Donnell to Andorra - Crysta is a double major in International Studies and Hispanic studies with a minor in French. She is a semi-finalist for an English Teaching Assistantship to Andorra, proposing to teach English at a High School in this trilingual (Catalan, Spanish and French) nation.

Sarah White to Denmark and Greenland - A Presidential Scholar, Sarah is a double major in Biology and Philosophy with a minor in Mathematics. Her research proposal "Investigating toxicity of under-ice mixotrophic algal blooms" is for a combined Denmark/Greenland program. She first would be based at Aarhus University in Denmark and then carry out field research through their Arctic Semester in Greenland program in Nuuk.

Global Education

During Intersession, 14 students went to the Galápagos Islands to study tropical biology on a faculty-led travel course led by Dr Marc Seid and Dr Anne Royer.

Only 1 student travelled abroad during Intersession on a partner program which was taught in Barcelona. Three (3) students had planned to participate in partner programs in Europe but cancelled due to COVID 19 concerns. One (1) student's in-person class in Japan was shifted to an online.

Thirteen (13) students have started their Spring semester study abroad programs in Europe this January. They are studying at St Louis University in Madrid (5), Gonzaga in Florence (4), Fordham in London (2), Loyola University Chicago in Rome (1), and Trinity College Dublin (1).

Spring International Student Enrollment as of Feb 4, 2022

Spring 2022 International Students							
Country	Graduate			Undergraduate			Grand Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Bangladesh		1	1				1
Burundi		1	1				1
Cayman Island				1		1	1
China (PRC)	1		1	1	1	2	3
Colombia					2 (EV)	2 (EV)	2 (EV)
Egypt		1	1				1
Ethiopia		1	1				1
Ghana		1	1				1
India	20 (1EV)	20	40 (1EV)				40 (1EV)
Ireland				1		1	1
Italy	1		1				1
Jordan	1		1				1
Nepal				1		1	1
Nigeria	1	1	2				2
Pakistan	2	2	4	1		1	5
Philippines					1	1	1
Russia	1		1				1
Saudi Arabia	11	5	16	1		1	17
Spain					1 (EV)	1 (EV)	1 (EV)
Taiwan					2 (EV)	2 (EV)	2 (EV)
Vietnam				1		1	1

Total	38	33	71 (1EV)	7	7 (5 EV)	14 (5 EV)	85 (6 EV)
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 under F1 or J1 Student Visa							
3. 31 (27 Regular and 4 Exchange Students) new international students this spring 2022. Out of 31 new students, 23 (22 Regular and 1 Exchange Student) are from India.							

Curriculum Approvals

New Course

	Date Posted
MGT 450: Sports Management	10/19/21
ENLT 253: Asian-American Literature	11/10/21
ESL 502: Academic English II	11/10/21

Course Change

THTR 213: Design for Theatre	11/5/21
KNES 212: Nutrition in Exercise and Sport	12/21/21

Course Deletion

ABA 580: Supervised Fieldwork Experience	10/19/21
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Program Change

Applied Behavior Analysis, MS	10/19/21
Hispanic Studies Major	11/10/21
Hispanic Studies Minor	11/10/21
Accounting	10/15/21

Program Deletion

Music History Minor	11/10/21
Studio Art Minor	11/10/21

Updates

- The College of Arts and Sciences has established a CAS Dean's Ambassador Group. The student advisory group meets regularly with the Dean. Members are nominated by faculty in their major departments.
- The Pre-Medical Advisory Group, a committee that advises the CAS dean on the Pre-Health program, has been re-established. Members are either faculty in CAS or alumni (including, but not limited to, members of the Medical Alumni Council). We are currently preparing a benchmark report for the Board of Trustees on admissions and best practices.
- CAS in collaboration with the Jesuit Center have invited Fr. James Heft to give a public talk at the University in March. The two-day long event is in honor of the Ignatian Year. Fr. Heft will meet with multiple constituencies at the University and give a public talk.

- A review of the Academic Advising model with a stronger emphasis on intellectual vocation is taking place in CAS.
- Accounting students will assist local residents with filing their federal, state and local tax returns as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.
- Campus-wide Library Services (MISO) Survey to be Administered
- The Library and IT will be jointly administering the Measuring Information Service Outcomes—MISO—survey in February 2022. The survey, which typically runs every three years, helps the two divisions to assess our services to the University community. The Library uses outcomes to refocus our objectives and to enhance services. The survey was last administered in Spring of 2018.
- Special Collections Exhibit on Hill-Davis Jesuit Collection
In honor of the Ignatian Year, the Heritage Room is hosting an exhibit titled “Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam: Rare Books from the Hill-Davis Jesuit Collection” during Spring semester. The exhibit will primarily feature books written by Jesuits from the founding of the order in 1540 through its suppression in 1773.
- On March 22, we are tentatively planning an exhibit reception with a lecture by Rev. Antoni Ucerler, S. J. Director of the Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History at Boston College. Father Ucerler will speak on the Jesuit’s use of printing technology to further missionary activities in Japan. The lecture will be co-sponsored by the Friends of Weinberg Library, the Jesuit Center, the Slatterly Center for the Ignatian humanities and the Schemel forum. The exhibit will run through April 24, 2022. For further information contact Special Collections Librarian, Michael Knies at Michael.Knies@Scranton.edu
- On March 29, 2022, Bergdís Ellertsdóttir, Ambassador of Iceland, will deliver a presentation on *Iceland: History, Culture, Environment* as part of the 7th Jay Nathan, Ph.D. Visiting Scholar Lecture Series. Following the Ambassador’s presentation will be a performance by Icelandic classical violinist Eva Ingolfsdóttir. An open reception follows the performance. Please contact george.aulisio@scranton.edu with any questions.
- The Weinberg Memorial Library is pleased to offer a new Recreational Reads collection for personal enjoyment and enrichment. The collection contains new fiction and nonfiction popular titles like those found on display at public libraries. The collection was a request of Student Government. Titles in the recreational reading collection will be available for check out to all students, faculty, and staff for 30 days.
- The Library is piloting a new resource that consolidates Open Access publications into a single search box. A major benefit of the new search, called CloudSource OA, is that all the published research retrieved by the search will not require institutional affiliation or a fee to access the materials. This means that the resource can be used by the public and area high school students. The search is located under the Open Access Search tab in the purple box on the center of the Library’s homepage (www.scranton.edu/library).
- The Weinberg Memorial Library now offers access to *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* online presence - Chronicle.com. In addition to the journal content published monthly, Chronicle.com contains daily news, data, and special issues like *The Almanac of Higher Education* and *The Trends Report*. University of Scranton students, faculty, and staff have unlimited on- and off- campus use as well as domain access which allows anyone with a scranton.edu email address to create a free account. Your Chronicle.com account will automatically sync with our site license subscription providing access to all content and additional options to sign up to receive newsletters like Academe Today,

Chronicle Review, and more. For directions on how to create an account, see here:
<https://guides.library.scranton.edu/chronicle>

- The Weinberg Memorial Library is seeking submissions for our annual exhibit of Environmental Art. The 2022 Environmental Art show will be held in the Heritage Room of the Weinberg Memorial Library April 19-26, 2022, with a virtual exhibit that will debut on April 19th, 2022. In conjunction with the Environmental Art Show library will be hosting an artist talk with Artist Laura Kern on April 25th, 2022, at 5:30pm. For information on how to submit see:
<https://sites.scranton.edu/library/2021/12/10/environmental-art-show-call-for-art-2022/>
Contact: Marleen Cloutier at marleen.cloutier@scranton.edu, Environmental Art Show Coordinator.
- The Library awarded two Affordable Learning Grants this past funding round. The grants go to faculty who commit to replacing for-cost course materials with either Library-provided materials or Open Educational Resources. The goal of the program is to increase affordability for Scranton students and to make classrooms more equitable so that all students have the same level of access to materials. In the Spring funding round, the Library is committed to funding up to 4 Affordable Learning Grants that will go toward Fall 2022 courses.