

TO: Faculty Senate

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

DATE: October 3, 2014

RE: Academic Affairs Report for October 2014

1. BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

The Board of Trustees met on Friday, September 26. Topics of discussion in the Academic Affairs and Student Formation/Campus Life committee included updates on Middle States and also Title IX issues. In the general meeting of the Board Fr. Maher presented the AJCU document **Some Characteristics of Jesuit Colleges and Universities: A Self-Evaluation Instrument**.

2. MIDDLE STATES UPDATE:

The University is still under the warning from November of 2013, but has taken extensive measures to address the issues around Standard 14 which caused the Commission concern. The University was asked at that time to “document that it has achieved and can sustain compliance with Standard 14, including but not limited to evidence of (1) establishment of learning goals at the institutional and program level for all programs, and (2) further development and implementation of an organized and sustainable process to assess the achievement of institutional and program level student learning outcomes with evidence that assessment information is used to improve teaching and learning.” On September 1 the University presented a response to the Commission (Monitoring Report) and we were then visited by a team of visitors (Valerie Collins, VP for Academic Affairs at Molloy College, Jeff Baldani, Prof. of Economics from Colgate, and Ellie Fogarty, Vice President of Middle States Commission), who were on campus September 15 and 16. They will make a recommendation to the Commission, who in turn will make a determination on our status by late November. We remain hopeful that, based on the visiting team’s report and our efforts to meet the Commission’s requests, the warning will be lifted. For documents related to our Middle States efforts, including the 2013 Periodic Review Report, the PRR Reviewer’s Report, and the Monitoring Report we created in response, please visit My.Scranton and click on ‘News’ and then scroll downward to the left of the screen. To see the status of the University and documents related to the Commission’s November 2013 letter, see the Middle States website at www.msche.org

3. RANK AND TENURE:

The public meeting to inform faculty of the rank and tenure policies and procedures, held on Tuesday, September 23rd was well attended.

My office has been notified that twenty-nine faculty will be taking part in the rank and tenure process this year. Seven are coming up for promotion to full professor, eight for associate professor, four for associate professor and tenure, and ten for tenure.

4. COMMITTEES:

Faculty Handbook:

The Faculty Handbook Committee continues to work on language concerning Teaching in the Rank and Tenure Process, Role and Rights of Faculty on Leave, and 23.3 Department's Responsibility.

5. CURRICULUM:

After consulting with Dr. Spalletta the following dates were sent to faculty regarding the deadlines for submitting curriculum proposals. The dates allow the reviewing bodies' sufficient time to review and approve curriculum proposals for inclusion in the 2015-2016 catalogs. I ask that faculty keep in mind that when submitting proposals they need to give their deans' office time to review the proposal and to send it to be posted.

All proposals **must be posted to the Faculty Senate Curriculum Board** by the dates indicated below:

- New Programs by December 19, 2014
- Major Program Changes by February 13, 2015
- Course Changes by February 23, 2015
- Any remaining small editorial changes by March 27, 2015

6. UPDATES:

College of Arts and Sciences

- James Moran (senior psychology major), Mike Kovalchik (senior biology major), Erika Sarno (junior biochemistry, cell and molecular biology major), and Ashley Villa (junior biochemistry, cell and molecular biology major), joined students from across the country as research interns at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) in Panama this summer. Internships for this prestigious program are awarded to students based on merit and matching the research interest of the students with ongoing research projects at the institute. The University works with STRI on a joint internship project supported by biology professors Marc Seid, Ph.D., and Gary Kwiecinski, Ph.D.
- The College has received a grant from the Council of Independent Colleges' NetVUE (Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education program), supporting the faculty teaching the new first-year seminar to develop the theme of vocation and engagement with service agencies in the seminars.
- The third Annual Ignatian Values in Action Lecture, on September 18, featured Jay Sullivan, author of this year's royal Read, *Raising Gentle Men: Lives at the Orphanage Edge*. The lecture was attended by an audience of approximately 2,200, including 1063 of our 1078 first-year students.
- The Ang Lee Film Festival, Three Decades of Fearlessness, began on October 2 with a viewing and discussion of Lee's 1993 film, *The Wedding Banquet*.

- The Hope Horn Gallery is now showing "Object and Image: Sculptures and Prints by Herbert Simon 1960-2014."

Kania School of Management

- *U.S. News & World Report* ranked three undergraduate programs of the University's Kania School of Management among the top 25 in the nation in its "Best Colleges" business specialty lists made public last week. The University's entrepreneurship program ranked No. 16, its finance program ranked No. 22 and its accounting program ranked No. 25 in national lists of business programs by specialty based on peer review scores.
- The Kania School will sponsor this year's AJCU Business Dean's National Conference on October 12-14. The conference will be attended by over 20 deans from our sister Jesuit institutions from across the nation.

Weinberg Library Memorial Library

The Weinberg Library dedicated its new Reilly Learning Commons on September 17, 2014. The Learning Commons provides exciting new opportunities for group study, collaboration spaces for students, a Writing Center satellite, new technology and software, and lecture capture for student presentations. We have also added student technology consultants and writing consultants that are available to help students get the greatest use out of the new Learning Commons.

Brown Bag Lunches:

The first Brown Bag Luncheon was held on Thursday, September 25th. Eleven faculty came to hear and talk about the *Middle States Monitoring Report: Next Steps* over a light lunch.

Book Read and Dinner

The book chosen for this fall's discussion is *The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers our Future* by Joseph Stiglitz. The dinner and discussion will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 5:30 pm in the DeNaples Center Room 406. The event will begin with cocktails at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by the book discussion. If you are interested, call the Provost's Office at ext. 7520.