

TO: Faculty Senate Report

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

DATE: February 6, 2015

RE: Provost's Report for February 13, 2015

I. SPRING CONVOCATION:

The Spring Convocation is schedule for Thursday, February 19, 2015 from 11:30 to 1:00 pm in the DeNaples Center.

II. ASSESSMENT UPDATE:

Assessment Institute

The Office of Educational Assessment (OEA) ended the fall semester with good news from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) that included the removal of the "Warning". Assessment activities continued last month with OEA/CAS collaboration to offer the January 2015 Assessment Institute. Weekly workshops for faculty and staff included the following topics: 1) *Assessment: Where We Are and Where We Need to Be, and Assessment of General Education (OEA)*; 2) *How Do My Student Learning Outcomes Contribute to Program Assessment? (CTLE)*; 3) *Indirect vs. Direct Evidence: National Survey Overview (Institutional Research)*; and 4) *Understanding & Using Student Learning Assessment Results (Guest Speaker, Temple University)*. Participation in the Assessment Institute included 37 faculty and 10 staff. Twenty academic departments participated with 12 from CAS. Staff participants represented CTLE, IR, and SFCL. A post-Institute survey is underway and results will be shared with the faculty and staff.

Outreach to Chairpersons and Program Directors

In February, the OEA will distribute a template for program outcome assessment and an "Assessment Resource Binder" to chairpersons and program directors that will include assessment tools, program outcome assessment slides (*from the January Assessment Institute*), along with the MSCHE response to the Monitoring Report. The plan for implementation of program outcome assessment will be discussed at a spring chairperson meeting with the Provost and OEA staff (*date TBA*).

ePlatform Committee and Special Advisory Group to AAC (Assessment Advisory Committee)

The OEA committee on the selection of an Assessment Platform met throughout the fall and held "informational webinars" with a number of vendors (7). The committee recommended four vendors for campus presentations and the dates for on-campus presentations are scheduled and listed below. The committee welcomes input from faculty and staff from across the campus and will convene a special advisory group to the AAC that offer critical input and inform the selection of the assessment platform.

March 4, 2015 (Wednesday)	LiveText
March 5, 2015 (Thursday)	D2L/Brightspace
March 9, 2015 (Monday)	CampusLabs
March 11, 2015 (Wednesday)	Taskstream

The vendors will be making three different presentations throughout the day. Further details and an itinerary will be posted closer to the dates.

OEA Faculty Grant Opportunity for Assessment of Student Learning

The Office of Educational Assessment (OEA) is pleased to announce that grants of up to \$1,800 are available to full-time faculty interested in enhancing their assessment skills. The grants can be used in several ways for the purpose of improving student learning. We are especially interested in developing faculty expertise in assessment, and priority will be directed to activities that: 1) Fund a guest speaker (*Assessment Expert*) for a department or college to offer a focused workshop on specific areas that are related to assessment of student learning in their discipline; 2) Promote participation in assessment programs that are part of a disciplinary conference, usually pre or post-conference workshops/sessions and related travel costs. (*Funds can supplement already funded conference and cover hotel, per diem, and pre/post conference workshop registration*); 3) Funding for assessment conferences which are not part of a disciplinary conference will also be considered. (*Funds are applied to the main costs of the conference/travel*); and 4) Assessment materials/resources. ***The complete application is available from OEA.***

III. FACULTY SEARCHES:

We are conducting twenty-one faculty searches; as of this date five have been successfully concluded.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE SEARCHES

Career Services

Chris Whitney, Director of Career Services. Chris has her Master of Science degree in Secondary Counseling from The University of Scranton and her Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education and English and Communications from Penn State University. Prior to arriving at The University of Scranton, Chris served as the Director of Career Services for the School of Management at Binghamton University.

Director of Student Health Services

Lisa Whitaker, Director of Student Health Services. Prior to arriving at The University of Scranton, Lisa MSN, RN served as Thoracic Nurse Navigator/Clinical Research Associate with the Pocono Medical Center in East Stroudsburg, PA. She completed her B.S. in Nursing at The College of Staten Island and her M.S. in Nursing at Independence University.

KSOM Internship Position

The internship director's position has been filled by Jason Schwass. Jason has his MBA and previously worked in our development office.

V. RANK AND TENURE:

The Board of Rank and Tenure held formal meetings on January 9, 10, 16 and 17th to review application of twenty-eight candidates. The President received the recommendations from the Board of Rank and Tenure, and we are awaiting his decision. All candidates will be informed of the decision in a meeting with the Provost.

VI. FULBRIGHT NOMINATIONS:

I am delighted to report that six of our eight Fulbright candidates have been recommended as national finalists for awards by the National Screening Committee. IIE in New York, who administer the Fulbrights, report that there were over 10,000 applicants this year for the approximately 1,500 awards nationwide.

Each country will now select the Fulbright recipients from the national finalist list for that country. These decisions can be any time between February 1 and June 1, and on average, there are twice as many finalists as grants available in each country. I hope to bring you word of the final outcomes of the Fulbright competition towards the end of Spring Semester.

Our finalists are:

Field	Country	Major(s)
Biology	Australia	Biochemistry (MS)
Teaching ESL	Bulgaria	Journalism, Philosophy
Medical Science	Finland	Exercise Science
Teaching ESL	Germany	History
Teaching ESL	Mongolia	International Studies, Philosophy
Teaching ESL	South Korea	English

We will announce the names of the students when the final decisions have been made.

VII. MEDICAL SCHOOL PLACEMENT:

I am delighted to report that Dr. Engel has informed me that as of this date 17 students have received acceptances to 30 medical schools, 8 students have been accepted to dental school, 1 student has been accepted to optometry school and one student has been accepted at veterinary school.

VIII. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT:

Grant Proposals/Clavius Funding:

Calls for proposals for Clavius Funding and Summer Grant Application were sent out to faculty on February 4th.

Provost Faculty Enhancement Awards:

Request for nominations for the Provost Faculty Enhancement Awards were sent out to the Deans and Department Chairs on January 30th. 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 March 27th from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in The DeNaples Center's Ballroom.

IX. UPDATED SABBATICAL LIST:

The following sabbaticals have been approved for the 2015-2016 Academic Year.

Fall 2015

Lori Bruch

John Deak

Roy Domenico

Thomas Hogan

Richard Klonoski

Barry Kuhle

Sufyan Mohammed

Gary Kwiecinski

Robert Parsons

Iordanis Petsas

Nabil Tamimi

Daniel West

Year 2015-2016

Maureen Carroll

Will Cohen

Jean Harris

Christian Krokus

Richard Larsen

Jessica Nolan

Spring 2016

Timothy Casey

Harry Dammer

LeeAnn Eschbach

Yamile Silva

Hank Willenbrink

Intersession & Summer 2016

Donna Witek

X. CURRICULUM

The following curriculum proposals were approved since the last meeting.

New Course	Date Posted
Physics 120: General Physics I	9/5/14
WRTG 140: Digital Writing	11/25/13
 Program Change	
Peace and Justice Studies Concentration	10/31/14

XI. THE COLLEGES:**The Panuska College of Professional Studies**

- The Board of Governors of the Scranton Area Community Foundation recently cited The Edward R. Leahy Jr. Center Clinic for the Uninsured for its “significant and positive impact on our community” as part of the Foundation’s celebration of its 60th Anniversary.
- With February designated as “American Heart Month,” University of Scranton students majoring in Exercise Science will hold its seventh annual Healthy Heart Fair at The Mall at Steamtown on Saturday, Feb. 21, from noon to 4 p.m. The event is offered free of charge to area residents and will include free health screenings, interactive educational games and information about heart health.

College of Arts and Sciences

- The Spring 2015 Latin American Film Festival will feature *Juan de los Muertos* (Cuba 2010) on February 17, *Romero* (1989) on March 24, and *Pelo Malo* (Venezuela, 2013) on April 14.
- The 2015 International Conference on Asian Studies: Taiwan and China in the Global Context will take place on March 28 and 29 at the University of Scranton and Marywood University. The conference will feature a performance and master class by the Taipei Folk Dance Theatre.

Kania School of Management

- Accounting students and volunteers organized through the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties will assist local residents with their tax returns as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, a free service for clients with household incomes below \$51,000 for 2014.

Under the direction of Joseph Hammond, C.P.A., M.B.A., adjunct accounting professor, student interns instruct volunteer University students and community volunteers on how to assist taxpayers in fulfilling their financial obligations.

Weinberg Memorial Library

- The second Jay Nathan, Ph.D. Visiting Scholar Lecture Series, **Mongolia: History, Culture and Transformation**, will take place on Wednesday April

8, 2015 5:30-8 p.m. in the Moskovitz Theater, The DeNaples Center, Jeff Welsh, Ph.D. will serve as moderator the panel discussion. The panel members will be Bulgaa Altangerel, Ph.D., His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the United States who also currently serves as Non-Resident Ambassador of Mongolia to Israel and Mexico, Myagmar Saruul-Erdene, Ph.D. Mongolian Language and Culture Instructor at the Foreign Service Institute, United States State Department, Altantsetseg Sodnomtseren, policy analyst and researcher in strategic management, business development, institutional assessment, and higher education, and Jay Nathan, Ph.D. Fulbright Senior Specialist to Mongolia (2008); visiting professor to the National University of Mongolia; member of the American Center for Mongolian Studies. At the conclusion of the Panel Discussion, artists from Mongolia will perform traditional music and dance. A reception will follow the performance. Details about this Library sponsored event, visit The Jay Nathan, Ph.D., Visiting Scholar Lecture Series are available on the Library's Events and Programs page <http://www.scranton.edu/academics/wml/events-and-programs/jay-nathan/index.shtml>

XII. INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

Study Abroad

Eighty-five (85) University students studied abroad in January 2015, including 7 graduate students. The sites include short-term programs in Florence and Ireland; and also Faculty-Led Study Abroad courses in Mexico, the Philippines, Ireland, and Brazil.

International Student and Scholar Services

The University welcomed 24 new international students in January 2015. These include 2 undergraduate students (Saudi Arabia and China) and 14 MBA graduate students (13 from Saudi Arabia and 1 from India). Ten exchange students (6 from South Korea, and 1 each from Ecuador, Mexico, Australia, and Hong Kong).

There are two visiting international scholars on campus. The Department of English is hosting a scholar from China and the Department of Management/Marketing is hosting a South Korean scholar.

Other International News

The University is now affiliated with *The Undergraduate Awards* an international organization, based in Dublin, which was developed to recognize outstanding undergraduate students through their scholarship and coursework. The deans will receive more information about the program for distribution to the academic departments. Deadline for submissions for the 2015 awards is 29 May 2015 and details for submission can be found at www.undergraduateawards.com.

XIII. OFFICE OF RESEARCH SERVICES and SPONSORED PROGRAMS

Twenty-six (26) grant proposals have been submitted in AY 2014-15 and 5 intellectual property projects are at various stages in the patent application process.

XIV. SENIOR FELLOW, INTERNATIONAL, CULTURAL, AND CIVIC PROJECTS:

The Senior Fellow for International, Civic and Cultural Projects Sondra Meyers:

- brought the University into a collaboration with Scranton Area Foundation, United Neighborhood Centers, United Way and other organizations to create a humanities based Pocket Part in West Scranton. The project was awarded a \$50,000 planning grant from the PA Humanities Council. Ms. Myers is co-chairing with Julie Schumacher Cohen the project's Humanities Advisory Committee.
- co-taught a first year seminar with Dr. Matthew Meyer of the Philosophy Department on "Preparing for Democratic Citizenship" for the third year in a row.
- received news that Suraya Pakzad, the founder of Voice of Women in Afghanistan, opened the Scranton Restaurant in western Afghanistan with money raised here in Scranton. Ms. Pakzad, noted as one of the 100 most important people in the world by Time Magazine, has spoken here at the University and we spearheaded a drive to raise the money for a women' restaurant—organized and managed by women and for women. It is a breakthrough project and we plan to continue our efforts on behalf of Voice of Women.

XV. PERFORMANCE MUSIC

In addition to the regular weekly ensembles rehearsal schedule, student coachings, and dress rehearsals of student ensembles, as well as operational/administrative tasks of the department, the following special programs and performances were offered by the Performance Music department during spring semester 2015:

February 8, 2015 – 7:30 pm

7th Annual Gene Yevich Memorial Concert, featuring David Ostwald's Louis Armstrong eternity Band.

February 28, 2015 – 7:30 pm

In Concert – the University of Scranton Jazz Band with guest soloist Eddie Barbash

March 11, 2015 – 7:30 pm

General Recital – The University of Scranton Performance Music Students

March 22, 2015 – 7:30 pm

In Recital – Christopher Johnson, organist

March 29, 2015 – 7:30 pm

In Concert – A combined concert featuring The Manhattan School of Music Brass Orchestra and The University of Scranton Singers

April 11, 2015 – 7:30 pm

In Recital – Caleb Hudson, trumpet and Amanda Hudson, trombonist

April 25, 2015 – 7:30 pm

32nd Annual World Premiere Composition Series

May 2, 2015 – 7:30 pm

In Concert – The University of Scranton Jazz Band featuring surprise alumni guest soloists

May 15, 2015 – 7:30 pm

Pre-Commencement Concert – The University of Scranton Symphonic Band, Singers, and String Ensemble