

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Michelle Maldonado, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: May 5, 2023

RE: May 2023 Provost Report

Board of Trustees Update

The Education Committee of the Board of Trustees highlighted faculty-student collaborations with presentations on Community Based Learning and the PILLAR Program.

The Board of Trustees approved the Faculty Handbook language changes presented to them regarding the annual evaluation process and the librarian sabbatical language.

Provost Staff Searches

We are currently interviewing candidates for three positions: Manager, Office of Student Support and Success; Student Success Specialist, Office of Student Support and Success; Manager, International Student and Scholar Services.

Faculty Searches

We have successfully completed fifteen searches:

Name	Rank	Department
Laura Chapman	Assistant Professor	Health & Human Performance
Geng Liu	Assistant Professor	Physics/Engineering
Katorah Williams	Assistant Professor	Criminal Justice, Cybercrime & Sociology
Christiane McDonald	Faculty Specialist	Health & Human Performance
Katherine Stefanelli	Assistant Professor	Counseling & Human Services
Samantha Herrick	Associate Professor	Counseling & Human Services
Megan Whitbeck	Assistant Professor	Counseling & Human Services
Mark Fenner	Assistant Professor	Computing Sciences
Michael Crowell	Associate Professor	Physical Therapy
Michael Hague	Assistant Professor	Biology
Carrie Griffiths	Faculty Specialist	Occupational Therapy
Farshad Merrikh-Bayat	Assistant Professor	Physics/Engineering
Kelly Filchner	Assistant Professor	Nursing
Holly Avella	Visiting Assistant	Communication and Media
Matthew Hale	Visiting Assistant	Theology/Religious Studies
Elin Woods	Assistant Professor	Library

Department Chair Elections

The results of the election for eleven department chairs are listed below:

Janice Voltzow	Biology
Richard Plishka	Computing Sciences
Iordanis Petsas	Economics, Finance and International Business
Maria Oreshkina	Education
Susan Mendez	English and Theatre
Peter Andersen	Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship
W. Andrew Berger	Physics/Electrical Engineering
Michael Allison	Political Science
Christie Karpiak	Psychology
Michael Jenkins	Criminal Justice, Cybersecurity, and Sociology
Maria Poggi Johnson	Theology/Religious Studies

Faculty Development

President's Fellowships

The following faculty and students have been awarded a President's Fellowship for Summer 2023 Research:

Jong-Hyun Son/Gabrielle Bingener	<i>Developmental Hypoxia as a Risk Factor of Substance Abuse Disorders in Zebrafish</i>
Joe Brague/Jacob Mohring	<i>Irisin-Hormones and their role in Parkinson's Disease</i>
Marc Seid/Stephen Butler	<i>The Effect of Social Isolation on Rates of Addiction and Neurochemistry in <i>Camponotus Floridanus</i></i>
Vincent Farallo/Caitlin Doughton	<i>The Effects of Alkaloid Sequestration on Poison Frog Metabolism</i>
Vincent Farallo/Emma Hughes	<i>The Effect of Predator Cues on the Physiology of <i>P. Cinereus</i></i>
Timothy Foley/Dominick Spera	<i>Characterization of Thiols on the Glycolytic Enzyme Enolase as a Regulatory Switch Sensitive to Metabolic Stress</i>
JoyAnna Hopper/Shelby Traver	<i>The Pandemic Within a Pandemic: Assessing the Impact of Covid-19 on Non-Profit Serving Women of Northeastern Pennsylvania</i>
Gary Kwiecinski/Samantha Pickering	<i>Bat Species Richness and Activity in Northeast Pennsylvania at Lackawanna State Park</i>
Marc Seid/Nicholas Tomassoni	<i>The Effects of Recombinant Erythropoietin on Synaptogenesis in <i>Camponotus Floridanus</i></i>
Marc Seid/Miriam Van de Water	<i>The Effects of Rising Temperature in <i>Pheidole dentata</i></i>

Summer Grants

The following faculty have been approved to receive Summer 2023 Grants:

Patrick Clark	<i>Light From Darkness: The Role of Anti-Exemplars in Christian Ethics</i>
Ovidiu Cocieru	<i>The Impact of a Classroom as Organization on University-to-Work Transition and Early Careers</i>
Kate Cummings	<i>Professional Obsolescence? Librarians in a Changing World</i>
Christian Krokus	<i>Spiritually Vulnerable: Christian de Cherge (1037-1996), Catholic – Muslim Dialogue, and Beyond</i>
Andrew LaZella	<i>The Misalignment Problem: Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Human Values</i>
Ann Pang-White	<i>Care, Dependency, and the Ethics of Assistance: A Confucian Perspective</i>
Meghan Rich	<i>Urbanization as a Social Problem</i>
Robert Shaffern	<i>Sex Workers and Indulgences in Fourteenth-Century Viterbo</i>

Clavius Fund Grant

A Clavius Fund grant for the 2023-2024 academic year was awarded to:

Stacey Muir	Justice, Access, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (JAIDE) and STEM
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Institutional Review Board Updates

The Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (IRB) continues to guide human subjects' research compliance under The Common Rule. During this academic year, a review and update to the University's IRB Policy has been completed. Updated procedures to document the University of Scranton IRB as the IRB of record for non-University investigators from other institutions with their own IRBs, as well as IRB oversight for independent investigators from institutions/entities without their own IRBs – have also been posted. View these documents on the University's IRB website:

<https://www.scranton.edu/academics/provost/research/sub%20pages/IRB.shtml>. The site includes other resources, including IRB forms and education requirements for faculty, student, and staff researchers. Information regarding the 2023-2024 IRB meeting schedule will be released in early summer. IRB Administrator duties transitioned to Kate Yerkes, Assistant Provost in June 2023. Please contact Kate, or the IRB Committee Chair, Dr. Bryan Burnham, with any IRB related questions.

Faculty Handbook Language

At their May meeting the Faculty Handbook Committee discussed its plans for next fall. The committee developed an outline on how it will approach working on the language in 8.1 Scheduling of Courses. The committee also plans to look at Appendix VI the role of the faculty in tenure track faculty searches.

Accreditation

- The University of Scranton received candidacy status for our Speech Language Pathology program from the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA). The University of Scranton has been awarded candidacy for a period of five

years beginning, February 1, 2023 – January 31, 2028. Candidacy status is awarded to a *newly developed* entry-level graduate degree program that meets all institutional and programmatic eligibility requirements, including that the program has no students enrolled and that it has been granted authorization through the governance process of the parent institution and the appropriate state authority to offer the graduate degree program(s) for which candidacy is sought. Candidacy status requires compliance with the Standards in a logical sequence over several years. This allows new programs to evolve over time and to secure the necessary resources to administer the program while being closely monitored by the CAA. Candidate programs are monitored for continued development and compliance with the Standards through submission of annual progress reports. Candidacy status may be held for no longer than 5 years, subject to approval of the progress reports, at which time the program must meet all CAA Standards for Accreditation.

- The Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) performed a virtual site visit April 3-5, 2023 for our three M.S. counseling programs: Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling and School Counseling. The site visitors were very complimentary of our programs and were particularly impressed with the clinical training provided by the Counselor Training Center. All CACREP accreditation standards except 2 were found to be met. The two areas needing improvement were related to orientation for site supervisors for internship students and a need for a consistent supervisor agreement across all three programs. These deficiencies are easily remedied, and our program directors will be submitting a response to the report by the May 14, 2023 deadline. The CACREP Board will review the program and make accreditation decisions at their meeting, July 6-8, 2023.
- PCPS has hired two new faculty (Fall 2023) and two new staff (Director of Clinical Education and Administrative Assistant) to meet the personnel needs of the growing BS in Communication Sciences and Disorders program and the new MS in Speech Language Pathology program, which will be admitting its first cohort of students to begin in fall 2023. This completes hiring for full-time personnel for these programs.

Curriculum

New Program

	Date Posted
❖ Accelerated Human Resources Management Program	3/6/23
❖ DNP – Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization	4/3/23
❖ Graduate Nursing – Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Speciation	4/3/23
❖ Post-Graduate Certificate with Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization	4/3/23
❖ Black Studies Concentration	4/5/23

Program Change

❖ Women’s and Gender Studies Major (INTD 220 & ENLT 375)	3/27/23
❖ Women’s and Gender Studies Concentration (INTD 220 & ENLT 375)	3/6/23

Updates

- The Education Department's move to the College of Arts and Sciences is underway. This move will facilitate the implementation of the NSF's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program which helps fund the education of STEM majors who are willing to teach in "high-need school districts" after graduation. Part of this transition has included the restructuring of the Master's in Education and the creation of a post baccalaureate teaching certificate which can now both be completed in one year.
- The Special Jesuit Liberal Arts Program (SJLA) has successfully revised its curriculum to add a more diverse range of courses including a junior year sequence that includes courses in the history, philosophy, and theology of science.
- Numerous departments within the CAS hosted events for area high school students in the past few weeks.
- Physics and Engineering hosted the Hayes Family Science competition on April 20.
- History hosted both the regional and state competitions for National History Day in April
- The Noyce Scholarship Program in conjunction with Education, Math, Chemistry, Biology, and Physics hosted a one-day Science Camp on April 22
- CAS is in the process of hiring a fourth professional advisor who will serve as the point of contact for all incoming and first-year pre-health students. The plan is to have the new hire in place to help with summer orientation.
- PCPS has purchased specialized software, Zoom Class, that is designed specifically for state-of-the-art synchronous on-line instruction. Zoom Class is an application that supplements the basic functions of Zoom through the incorporation of additional pedagogical and instructional technology features such as automatic attendance, student engagement visualization, enhanced breakout room functionality, and direct integration with Brightspace. The MS in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) and graduate Nursing programs will be the first to utilize this application. This software will be used in all of the new on-line courses being built for the SLP program. It will also be used by the graduate programs in Nursing that are moving to, or being developed in, an on-line format. These graduate programs will be comprised of didactic courses delivered on-line combined with precepted in-person clinical practicums.
- The Library has initiated Open Access publishing agreements with Cambridge University Press and the American Chemical Society. The agreements will waive article processing charges for faculty authors who opt to publish Open Access. There is a LibGuide with more details: <https://guides.library.scranton.edu/OApublishing>. The Library's OER Committee will host an Open Education Week (March 5th-10th) event to discuss the agreements and the new round of Affordable Learning Implementation grants.
- In the Fall of 2023, the Library will implement EBSCO's Discovery Service (EDS) as their new discovery system (i.e., the "Library Catalog"). EDS will seamlessly integrate search results from the current WML catalog with electronic resources from our many databases and online platforms to allow for a more centralized and comprehensive search of all Library collections.

Thank You

I would like to extend my appreciation to all of you for serving on the Faculty Senate this past year. It has been a productive year.

I would like to thank Bryan Burnham for his service as President and all the executive committee. I note in particular the work of Chris Howey and the curriculum committee for vigilantly staying on top of an enormous workload.