

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Michelle Maldonado, Ph.D.
Provost/Senior VPAA

DATE: October 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Provost Report for October 2023

I want to begin by apologizing for my absence at the meeting as I am attending the AJCU conference.

1. Rankings

U.S. News & World Report ranked The University of Scranton No. 5 in its 2024 edition of the “Best College” guidebook. They ranked us No. 8 in its category for “Best Undergraduate Teaching,” a selection of the top colleges in the nation that express a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching.

2. Rank and Tenure

A public meeting to inform faculty of the rank and tenure policies and procedures was held on September 22nd. Twenty faculty have applied for tenure and/or promotion for 2023-2024. Eight faculty have applied for full professor, six have applied for associate, two have applied for tenure and promotion, and four have applied for tenure. The deadline for submitting dossiers and CVs is October 22, 2023.

3. Faculty Handbook Committee

The Faculty Handbook Committee met on Thursday, September 21st. This year our focus is on the language in Section 8.1 regarding the scheduling of courses. The committee formed a subcommittee to work on Section 8.1. The subcommittee will bring revised language back to the full committee for approval. Dean Castellanos, Dr. Maldonado, Dr. S. Muir, Dr. Pargianas and Dr. Wasilewski make up the subcommittee.

The committee began to edit the language in Appendix VI: Faculty Role in the Search for Tenure-Track Faculty.

4. Retention Rates for 1st Generation and Historically Underrepresented Students

See Appendix I.

5. Bookstore

There have been numerous concerns raised about the bookstore this semester. The University is currently in conversation with Follett to address these concerns. I also want to remind faculty that in order to be in compliance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA) all course materials must be posted through the University of Scranton Bookstore. This is a federal policy. You can find information on this here: <https://www.scranton.edu/academics/registrar/book-orders.shtml>. **All Spring**

bookstore orders must be submitted by October 26th as Spring Registration opens on the 27th. You will be receiving an email directly from the bookstore next week, and we will also be collaborating with Follett to offer a training session for faculty on the adoption process. In addition to HEOA compliance, students who receive a book and supply award through their financial aid package must purchase their books from the bookstore. I ask that we all collaborate to both be compliant and compassionate to our students who can exclusively use the bookstore.

6. Laudato Si'

- a. You can find a copy of our Laudato Si' Action Plan here: <https://www.scranton.edu/about/laudato-si.shtml>. One of the Laudato Si' goals is Ecological Education. I am inviting faculty to a conversation on how best to address this goal on **Thursday, October 19, 3:30-4:30 in DeNaples 401**.
- b. Georgetown University is hosting an in-person and online dialogue entitled: "Caring for the Environment and each Other: Pope Francis' Follow-Up to Laudato Si." This looks to be a very engaging panel. You can find more information here: <https://catholicsocialthought.georgetown.edu/events/caring-for-the-environment-and-each-other-pope-francis-follow-up-to-laudato-si#rsvp>
- c. Pope Francis' most recent Apostolic Exhortation, "Laudate Deum: To All People of Good Will on the Climate Process," was released on the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. You can find the full text here: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/2023_1004-laudate-deum.html.

7. Environmental Scan

- a. We are asking that all departments review their academic programs and determine if there are any that they would like to transform or grow that would require additional fiscal resources by **December 15th**. This will allow both the faculty and administration to collaboratively review them while still having access to the Gray Tool, which we have until May.
- b. Similarly, if any departments have any new program ideas, regardless of whether the program was identified at the workshop, that will require additional fiscal resources we are asking those to be submitted to your Dean and the Provost's Office by **February 15th** at the absolute latest.
- c. These dates give a two-week extension from earlier provided dates to accommodate an additional department meeting.

8. Upcoming Lecture

- a. On **Friday, October 27th at 5:00pm in the Pearn Auditorium** we will be premiering "Scranton Stories" Oral History Interviews & Portrait Photographs. The event will include a Panel Discussion and Exhibit at 5pm. For the past two years, a community-wide project, Scranton's Story, Our Nation's Story, has explored themes of history, belonging, and identity through a series of programs, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. These October events premiere the project's final phase, an oral history initiative called "**Scranton Stories.**" The exhibit features portraits by

photographer Byron Maldonado of each interviewee with personal statements and evocative interviews giving voice to an array of Scranton experiences and connecting them, and our city, to our nation's ongoing story. I want to thank all of the faculty, staff, and administrators for their contributions to this NEH Project and Julie Schumacher Cohen in particular for her leadership. **A public reception and exhibit will follow at 6:00pm in the University Art Gallery, Hyland Hall 407.**

- b. The Sondra and Morey Myers Distinguished Visiting Fellowship in the Humanities and Civic Engagement advances the University's efforts to bring renowned scholars, artists, and thinkers to Scranton to share their work and enrich cultural and civic activity at the University and in Scranton. This year, we welcome Dr. Dale Jamieson, a scholar of environmental ethics and animal rights, and an expert on contemporary climate change discourse. **Dr. Jamieson is** Professor Emeritus of Environmental Studies; Director, Center for Environmental and Animal Protection; Affiliated Professor of Law, Medical Ethics, and Bioethics; Founding Director of Environmental Studies Program; and former Chair of the Environmental Studies Department, and Professor of Philosophy at New York University. This event will be **5:30pm on Tuesday, October 17th in the Moskovitz Theater (DeNaples 401).**

9. Curriculum Updates

Program Changes

	Date posted
Women's and Gender Studies Concentration – CHS 333	3/1/23
Women's and Gender Studies Major – CHS 333	3/1/23
Occupational Therapy, MS	4/20/23
Occupational Therapy Doctorate	4/20/23
Nursing Program	4/20/23
Business Analytics	5/3/23
Business Analytics, MS	9/27/23

Course Change

COMM 115: Writing for Communication	9/25/23
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New Course

BUAN 500: Business Analytics Tools	9/27/23
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10. Updates

- The new CAS Passport Workshop is complete. The average weekly attendance was 439 students. As part of the workshops, students received training on the SEP (including access to a series of training videos). Student response has been positive and there is already a clear benefit in the student registration process. We are also running a survey to get student feedback on their overall experience in the workshop.
- We have received 26 applications for the CAS Undergraduate Student Research Grant and we are in the process of reviewing applications. The grant is intended

to provide support to undergraduate student research and conference presentations.

- Francis X. Clooney, S.J., the Parkman Professor of Divinity at Harvard University presented The University of Scranton Slattery Center of Ignatian Humanities Lecture on comparative theology. The talk, “Hinduism, the Jesuit Tradition, and Comparative Theology”. Fr. Clooney was awarded an honorary degree at the event.

Retention Rates
First Generation

Undergraduate Student Retention and Graduation Rates within the University (filtered)

Freshmen Cohort	First-Time Full-Time Degree-Seeking Freshmen	Retention 1 Semester	Retention 1 Year	Retention 3 Semesters	Retention 2 Years	Retention 3 Years	Graduated in 4 Years	Retention 4 Years	Graduated in 5 Years	Retention 5 Years	Graduated in 6 Years	Retention 6 Years
2016	284	89.4%	82.4%	79.2%	77.5%	78.2%	68.7%	5.6%	72.5%	1.1%	73.6%	0.0%
2017	211	93.8%	85.8%	82.5%	80.1%	78.2%	72.5%	5.2%	76.8%	0.0%	78.2%	0.0%
2018	198	93.4%	83.3%	80.8%	77.3%	72.7%	68.2%	3.5%	71.7%	0.5%		
2019	252	94.0%	86.9%	84.1%	80.6%	76.6%	72.2%	6.0%				
2020	211	91.0%	79.1%	74.9%	70.1%	67.8%						
2021	206	88.8%	77.2%	73.3%	70.9%							
2022	316	92.4%	81.3%									
2023	358											

Historically unrepresented

Undergraduate Student Retention and Graduation Rates within the University (filtered)

Freshmen Cohort	First-Time Full-Time Degree-Seeking Freshmen	Retention 1 Semester	Retention 1 Year	Retention 3 Semesters	Retention 2 Years	Retention 3 Years	Graduated in 4 Years	Retention 4 Years	Graduated in 5 Years	Retention 5 Years	Graduated in 6 Years	Retention 6 Years
2007	60	98.3%	90.0%	83.3%	83.3%	81.7%	73.3%	8.3%	78.3%	0.0%	78.3%	0.0%
2008	64	100.0%	93.8%	89.1%	90.6%	89.1%	73.4%	12.5%	85.9%	3.1%	87.5%	0.0%
2009	88	96.6%	87.5%	84.1%	83.0%	78.4%	71.6%	8.0%	77.3%	1.1%	78.4%	0.0%
2010	114	93.0%	86.8%	83.3%	78.1%	73.7%	63.2%	5.3%	69.3%	0.9%	72.8%	0.0%
2011	124	93.5%	83.1%	79.0%	74.2%	71.0%	58.9%	4.8%	66.1%	0.8%	66.9%	0.0%
2012	118	94.1%	83.9%	82.2%	80.5%	76.3%	69.5%	5.1%	73.7%	2.5%	76.3%	0.0%
2013	104	95.2%	87.5%	87.5%	81.7%	81.7%	76.0%	2.9%	78.8%	0.0%	79.8%	0.0%
2014	162	94.4%	86.4%	84.0%	80.9%	79.0%	67.3%	8.6%	75.3%	1.9%	77.8%	0.6%
2015	152	96.1%	84.2%	78.9%	75.7%	71.1%	67.8%	3.3%	70.4%	0.0%	71.1%	0.0%
2016	143	93.0%	86.7%	82.5%	80.4%	80.4%	69.9%	4.2%	74.8%	1.4%	75.5%	0.7%
2017	129	89.9%	82.9%	77.5%	75.2%	75.2%	64.3%	8.5%	71.3%	0.0%	72.9%	0.0%
2018	144	91.7%	81.3%	78.5%	75.7%	72.9%	70.1%	1.4%	71.5%	0.7%		
2019	182	92.9%	87.4%	83.0%	81.3%	77.5%	70.3%	5.5%				
2020	159	91.2%	79.2%	78.0%	76.1%	74.8%						
2021	146	88.4%	77.4%	76.0%	75.3%							
2022	237	97.0%	86.1%									
2023	194											