

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Joseph H. Dreisbach, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: September 5, 2017

RE: Academic Affairs Report for September 2017

1. FACULTY HIRING:

The University welcomed 15 new faculty: 9 Assistant Professors, 3 Faculty Specialists, and 3 Visiting Assistant Professors. Thirty-four non-tenure track contracts were renewed. A new faculty orientation session was conducted on August 15th in conjunction with the CTLE. Faculty responsibilities, evaluation process, assessment, Title IX, CTLE resources, and the mentor-mentee programs were all on the agenda. (Attachment 1)

2. FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS AND VISITING FACULTY:

The Fulbright foreign language teaching assistants taking courses and teaching their native languages:

Lea Gorski, Germany
Vianey Florentino Perez, Mexico
Rebab Mesbahi, Morocco

Incoming faculty through our arrangement with the Taiwan Ministry of Education and the University:

Jia Ying Liao of Taiwan, B.A. in Political Science, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan; M.A. in Applied Chinese Language and Culture, National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE SEARCHES UPDATE:

- Sunil Ahuja, Ph.D. has been named Associate Provost for Academic Affairs. He was also awarded tenure in the Department of Political Science. Dr. Ahuja has more than 25 years of experience in teaching, scholarship, service and academic administration, particularly in the arena of institutional accreditation. Most recently, he served as vice president for accreditation relations, institutional change and research, Higher Learning Commission, in Chicago. In that role he was responsible for institutional accreditation for approximately 60 colleges and universities, institutional change policy development and process oversight, and directing the planning and analyses for the Commission's annual data collection from institutions.
- Harry R. Dammer, Ph.D., has been named Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Dammer is a professor in our Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Criminology. Dr. Dammer has 16 years of experience as a department chair, serving at both Scranton and Niagara University.

4. RANKINGS:

- Our Master of Accountancy degree program was ranked No. 1 in the nation in a list of top accounting programs by *Best Colleges*, an independent online higher education resource.
- For the 16th consecutive year *The Princeton Review* included us in its annual guidebook of select colleges that “are the best in the nation, academically.” This also marks the 3rd consecutive year they have ranked our science labs among the 10 best in the country.
- *Forbes* ranked Scranton among “America’s Top Colleges,” a listing of just 660 colleges in the U.S. that deliver the best “return on investment” or “value.” This is the 10th consecutive year *Forbes* has included us in the national ranking based on its evaluation of “quality academics and student satisfaction, on-time graduation rates, low student debt and high earning potential and career success.
- In the 382 *Best Colleges* ranked our science labs at No. 9 in the country. Our profile in this publication notes that the University has friendly students and caring, knowledgeable and approachable faculty members.
- *Money* magazine ranked Scranton No. 206 among 711 U.S. colleges listed to deliver the “best value.”
- Scranton has been recognized for its value in other national rankings, including *U.S. News and World Report*, *Forbes*, *The Economist* and Niche.com, among others.

5. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT:

Faculty Grants:

During the 2016-2017 academic year the following grants were awarded to our faculty: 5 Intersession Grants; 7 Summer Grants; and 2 Clavius Grants. The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs awarded 7 President’s Fellowships for Summer Research.

Faculty Travel:

Faculty travel funds support 172 faculty traveling to 226 conferences in 2016-2017

Sabbaticals:

Fall 2017

Benjamin Bishop
Timothy Casey
Rita Fleming Castaldy
Brigid Frein
Satyajit Ghosh
Linda Ledford Miller
Tata Mbugua
Susan Poulson
Marc Seid
Christine Zakzewski

Spring 2018

Yaodong Bi
Karen Brady
Rebecca Dalgin
Paul Datti
Anthony Ferzola
Iordanis Petsas
Stacy Smulowitz
El-Habib Zanzana

Academic Year 2017-18

Joseph Krause
Kenneth Monk
Jerry Muir
Stacey Muir

6. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES:

Department Chairpersons:

The annual retreat for chairpersons of all academic departments occurred on August 15th. This was a new half-day format with presentations on the goals of this year and beyond by each of the deans, brief update reports on finance, enrollment and human resource issues. This left 45 minutes for the chairs to present their questions and concerns which, in turn, led to some very productive discussions. This was followed by a working luncheon where the Office of Educational Assessment sponsored an assessment workshop. (Attachment 2)

Colleges

College of Arts & Sciences

- Community leaders were given a preview of the new Center for the Analysis and Prevention of Crime, which combines faculty research expertise and criminal justice practitioner knowledge with state-of-the-art technology for extensive data analysis. Students will be able to minor in crime analysis or earn a certificate in crime analysis, crime prevention or criminal investigations. Students major in criminal justice who meet requirements can apply for the University's Student Analyst Program, which will allow students to work directly with criminal justice agencies and faculty on research, data collection and analysis. This will set our graduates apart from students in most undergraduate programs.
- Dr. Hank Willenbrink was invited to participate in the 12th annual Obrador International at Sala Beckett. One of the most important independent theatres in Spain, Sala Beckett is a leader in new plays in Catalan and a cultural fixture in Barcelona. The Obrador brings together 10 playwrights from across the world for a week residency at Sala Beckett, Dr. Willenbrink is the first representative chosen from the United States in the Obrador's history. His play, "American Pageant" was performed as part of the international staged reading series.

Panuska College of Professional Studies

- Dr. Julie Cerrito, assistant professor and director of the school counseling program in the Department of Counseling and Human Services received the Edwin L. Herr Fellowship for Excellence in Counseling Leadership and Scholarship Award from Chi Sigma Iota, the international counseling academic and professional honor society.

7. CAREER DEVELOPMENT:

The Center for Career Development reported that they received 52 applications and were able to award 16 Summer Internships; an increase 3 internships from last year.

8. PROVOST EVENTS AND DEADLINES:

Intersession Grant Proposals:

The deadline for full-time faculty interested in submitting a proposal for an Intersession Grant is October 6, 2017.

Rank and Tenure:

The timeline for applications for rank or tenure was distributed the first week of the semester and is available on the Provost's website. The deadline for faculty members to inform the provost's office of his or her intent to apply is September 27th and dossiers are due on October 31st. A public meeting designed to inform faculty of the rank and tenure policies and procedures was held on Friday, September 22nd at noon in the Provost's Conference Room.