

TO: Faculty Senate

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

DATE: December 4, 2015

RE: Provost's Report

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**I. University Planning Committee**

The UPC has engaged the faculty (particularly those who assisted in drafting the plan) in further conversation. A message from the UPC on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the concerns raised in the recent Faculty Senate Climate Study is forthcoming.

Scorecards outlining centers of responsibility, targets and measures of success, and other implementation details for each theme are being developed by the colleges and units. The UPC, President's Cabinet and Strategic Plan Implementation Team will continually monitor implementation and establish progress reporting. The comprehensive resource review process will create the financial flexibility necessary to address our long term financial issues.

**II. CGCE Transition Update**

The CGCE Transition Team, headed by Meg Cullen-Brown, has made much progress in developing a draft plan which will result in improved service to our students and streamlining in personnel. She and Helen Steger will be making a presentation to the Faculty Senate at the December meeting.

**III. Rankings**

The Assessment Platform Committee chaired by Dr. Vanessa Talerico, made a recommendation to work with PCPS programs to “pilot” a platform in 2016-17 with *Live Text*.

The Directors and Faculty Fellows are meeting with program directors/faculty in CAS for refinement of Program Assessment Plans

The Associate Provost and OEA are preparing to begin the interview process for a Faculty Fellow from CAS to fill the slot left open by Dr. Dammer. A request for applications was distributed to all full-time faculty in CAS.

## **V. International Programs**

Eighteen students are spending the entire fall 2015 semester abroad: Italy (4), Denmark (1), France (2), Ireland (4), England (2), Scotland (1), Korea (1), Australia (1), China (1), and South America (1). A total of around 250 students will be studying abroad this year as participants in various programs and courses sponsored by the University or in collaboration with other schools.

## **VI. Office of Research Services and Programs**

The Faculty Research Committee approved 9 Internal Funding Proposals.

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Carol Cote                         | <i>Visual, haptic and cross-modal exploration strategies in children with and without learning disabilities</i>  |
| Paul Cutrufello<br>Michael Landram | <i>The Effect of Exercise-Induced Fluid Loss on Percent Body Fat Using Multiple Methods: Skinfolds, Bioelectrical Impedance, Air Displacement Plethysmography, Ultrasound, and Dual X-Ray Absorptiometry</i> |
| Roy Domenico                       | <i>Italy at War 1935-1948</i>  |
| Ann Feeney                         | <i>“Consider The Kids”: The Effectiveness Of A Fetal Effects Education Video On Pregnant Women’s Knowledge, Self-Efficacy And Motivation Related To Tobacco Use</i>  |
| Timothy Foley                      | <i>Lipotoxicity: A Biochemical Rationale for Dietary Approaches to Cancer</i>  |
| George Gomez                       | <i>Identifying the cellular signaling pathway involved with retinoic acid-induced differentiation in neuroblastoma cells</i>   |
| Joan Grossman<br>Danielle Argio    | <i>The Use of Wearable Technology and High Intensity Interval</i>  |

Hank Willenbrink

*Catalan Publics, Catalan Theatricality: Salas Alternatives and Contemporary Barcelona*

The following sabbaticals have been approved:

**VIII.**

## **Weinberg Memorial Library**

Scranton Family Papers Scanathon. In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the City of Scranton, the Weinberg Memorial Library has organized a collaborative digitization project with the University of Scranton Department of History, Royals Historical Society, Scranton Public Library, Lackawanna Historical Society, and State Library of Pennsylvania. On the weekend of October 24, University of Scranton student volunteers will digitize and describe the first two volumes of the Lackawanna Historical Society's Scranton Family Papers collection.

Beginning in Spring 2016 the Weinberg Memorial Library's digital collections will be included in the DPLA (Digital Public Library of America), accompanied by digital materials from institutions across the state. Students, teachers, scholars, and citizens can use DPLA to explore over 11 million items from American libraries, archives, and museums.