



The Process? In every case, the policies and processes outlined in the Discontinuance of an Academic Program Policy (#5-0506 10 February 2006) will be followed carefully. This policy was developed so to ensure that the principles of shared governance will be incorporated into these processes.

I include below my memorandum to the chairpersons of programs that have been proposed for discontinuation:

Regular review and action on academic program offerings must be integral in the functions of institutions of higher education. The University's administration has always encouraged new program development. More recently, there has been a more explicit call for program faculty to examine how their programs can be developed to become more distinctive. The institution has not been very active in systematically reviewing for program discontinuation.

Although the overall financial status of the University is very sound, its operating budget has been flat for some years. In context, one must realize that most institutions of higher learning find themselves in similar situations, and in many cases, ones that are quite serious. Nevertheless, these developing budget realities require that the University accept the responsibility of reviewing more carefully its assortment of program offerings. In addition to investment in new and existing programs as noted above, that responsibility includes identifying

but I will have some type of “guestimate” within another week or two. At this point it is clear that resources will be required, and they will be significant.

- d. A new concept for the 2019-20 academic calendar. I will be providing to the senates, through the University Governance Council, a concept for a 2019-20 academic calendar that greatly reduces the January intersession. The concept is not a proposal for a new calendar, but rather a call for vetting of this new concept. Removing the January session, which has been in place for over 40 years, is a very significant step which requires broad and complete vetting by the University community. The new calendar concept is developed to address the issue of overlapping terms that could lead to federal financial aid compliance issues. The new calendar concept would eliminate that potential. The formal 2019-20 calendar proposal, whatever form that will be, will be presented in spring 2018.
- e. Student Retention/Completion Group. Ms. Julie Ferguson and Dr. Sunil Ahuja have agreed to co-chair a group to examine University issues related to student retention and completion. The group will also recommend on actions, immediate and longer term that could be employed to enhance student retention and completion. Deans were asked to select a faculty member from each of their colleges. A representative from the Faculty Senate has also been requested to serve.
- f. New Program Development.  
Neuroscience (MS). The program implementation team is being gathered to prepare for the launch of the program when it obtains Senate recommendation. The program is being developed in collaboration with the Geisinger Community Medical College.  
Physician Assistant. Scott Massey, Ph.D., PA-C, Director and Professor, Physician Assistant Program, from Central Michigan University is serving as the consultant for development of a potential PA program at the UofS. On Tuesday, 10 October, he met with a number of administrators and faculty to discuss the processes, opportunities and challenges of moving forward to implementing a PA program.



spring visit by our Middle States Liaison, Dr. Ellie Fogarty; partnered with the Jesuit Center to conduct a summer workshop that further incorporates Ignatian discernment into the work of our Self-study; and recruited more than 50 faculty, staff, and students from across the campus community to serve on eight Working Groups.

During the next phase, the Working Groups will conduct research, gather evidence and analyze the results to produce the substantive reports necessary to demonstrate that the University meets Middle States' accreditation standards. As our Design notes, this Self-Study will be a transparent one, so we will bring these reports to the campus for comment and review.

Three town hall discussions were scheduled for September and October in order to give the campus community a chance to provide direct input on specific standards. Lastly, faculty and staff are being encouraged to take part in surveys this fall that will contribute to the Self-study:

(September) AJCU consortium survey on mission, to which we have added a set of unique self-study reflection questions;

(October) Survey by the Planning & Institutional Effectiveness Office about the University's [Strategic Plan](#).

#### **6. Office of Educational Assessment:**

Accomplishments to date for the 2017-18 Academic Year: On August 15<sup>th</sup> 2017, OEA and the Office of Planning & Institutional Effectiveness co-hosted a workshop for the President's Council on integrating assessment into all of the Middle States standards. We also hosted a workshop for Department Chairs and Program Directors on planning for assessment that afternoon.

Dr. Claudine Keenan, Dean of the School of Education at Stockton University and regional accreditation visitor, conducted both sessions.

OEA has completed its assessment of assessment, which involves using a rubric to score the Program Assessment Reports submitted to the Deans in June. This year, we shall provide feedback to all programs that submitted reports. Heretofore, programs could request feedback voluntarily.

Goals for the 2017-18 Academic Year: First, OEA will work closely with the Middle States Steering Committee and working groups on collecting evidence for the self-study. With the guidance of the Assessment Advisory Committee (AAC), OEA will continue to implement the Comprehensive Plan for Assessment. According to the plan, CAS programs will submit assessment plans in October for the next three-year assessment cycle. With these plans, we shall collect evidence on how programs "closed the loop" based on the last three-year cycle.

One of our major goals for the 17-18 academic year will be to focus on assessment of the GE Curriculum, as well as the Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs). An assessment

of FYDT will began on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. Amy Simolo, Faculty Development Specialist in CTLE, will partner with OEA to hold a norming session for faculty involved in the assessment. In addition, there are several requests for the Provost's Assessment Scholars to conduct projects to assess the ILOs.

**7. Study Abroad:**

Statistics: This year 266



## **11. College Updates:**

### *College of Arts and Sciences*

The Department of Physics/EE recently received a very positive preliminary report from the ABET Engineering Accreditation Commission on our Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering program. The team quickly recognized the culture of student-centered learning, and the commitment of faculty to this way of engaging student in the Physics/EE department, and throughout the University.

### *Panuska College of Professional Studies*

The Education Department is hosting a site visit of its accrediting body CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation) in October. The teacher education programs will be audited based on a new set of standards. The preparation for the visit included launching a few important innovations in the department. First, we established a data-driven quality assurance system, which includes reporting results of external and internal assessments of candidates to the Education Department faculty, establishing trends, and making programmatic changes based on our candidates' performance. In September we held our Annual Assessment Day to report the summary of candidates' performance for 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years.

The Education Department designed and completed an Alumni Survey to examine current job placements of our graduates, to tap into their satisfaction with the University of Scranton Teacher Education program, and to study the impact of our program completers on quality of education received by their P-12 students. The department conducted two stages of the survey, a pilot stage, which targeted 450 alumni and received responses from 136; and a main stage, which targeted 136 alumni and received responses from 52 respondents. The results of the survey are analyzed and were presented at Assessment Day.

Exercise Science and Community Health Education students are taking part in the Health Matters Community Based Learning project. This project is a health education program that serves adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities served by Saint Joseph's Center.

### *Kania School of Management:*

Profs. Regan and Marcy paper titled "The Doctorally-qualified Accounting Faculty Shortage and the Demand for Non-traditional Doctoral Programs" was accepted for presentation at the 2017 AAA Annual meeting that was held in August.

### *Weinberg Memorial Library:*

In partnership with the Department of Nursing, the Weinberg Memorial Library now hosts the University of Scranton Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Scholarly Projects Collection (<http://www.scranton.edu/library/dnp>). Scholarly project papers and posters prepared by graduating DNP students are preserved in the



