

Provost Update to Senate January 16, 2020

- **Announcements:**

- Monday, January 20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Holiday: NO CLASSES). Day of service.
 - Beautiful day of service. CUA at her best.
- Friday, January 24: March for Life - No classes between 11:00 am and 3:10 pm
 - The faculty and staff should be encouraged to participate alongside the students insofar as possible, i.e., meeting with the President at Heritage Hall at 11:00 a.m. and then gathering together with the students at the corner of 7th and Constitution streets... but feeling free to participate however they wish.
 - Since many faculty and staff participate with family member(s), it would be great to encourage them along with their families to participate together with other faculty-staff-students in the march. But again, however they wish.
 - At least on the faculty side, encouragement at the level of school deans would be helpful.
- Tuesday, January 28: University Mass for the Patronal Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas - No classes between 11:50 am and 3:00 pm

- **Dean Searches**

- Three dean searches are underway:
 - Architecture
 - Arts & Sciences
 - NCSSS
- The Search Committees met and underway
- Goal is to bring shortlisted candidates to campus in the spring and make hires to start this summer

- **Library**

- I've been meeting with faculty about the University Library
- The consistent message has been that we need to invest more in the Library
- I think the message is pretty clear and is 100% consistent with our shared goal of academic excellence as a research university
- I will be (re)constituting a faculty advisory committee for the Library to help us make decisions about priorities, purchases and any cuts or reductions
- Will be relying upon the expertise and advice of you, our colleagues, primarily in the humanities, but also social and hard sciences.

- **Midterm Grades**

- Lynn has been meeting with Student Government Senators and there is a desire to implement the reporting of midterm grades for all students, not just freshmen
- We will be pilot testing this in the Spring Semester
- It will be using BlackBoard to do so: **ask Lynn to expand on this**
- **Focus Groups**
 - Responding to Gallup survey from last year
 - Jeff Branstetter will be on campus Feb 18-20
 - 6 focus groups, moderated by Jeff, 1 hour long
 - Groups meet 10-11 AM and 2-3 PM each day
 - 15-17 people/group. Sign up
 - Open to all faculty and staff
 - Questions:
 - Why did you and others score the question the way you did?
 - What do we do really well and not so well?
 - What should we do about it?
 - Will put together action teams to address
- **Update on Faculty/Staff Compensation Study**
 - Highest priority this year for me
 - Plan is to make a target goal and a plan of action to implement raises to move us much closer to the median of our peers
 - Will hear from Mercer today