

Provost Update to Senate March 19, 2020

COVID-19

- Rapidly evolving situation. Consult the University's websites for the latest and most up-to-date information. In particular, the University's COVID-19 website (<https://communications.catholic.edu/coronavirus/index.html>) and the Provost's website (<https://provost.catholic.edu/index.html>).
- Decided in the Cabinet to go fully online for remainder of semester.
- Overall goals are to deliver the best educational experience possible under the current circumstances while keeping students, staff, and faculty safe.
- Thank and compliment faculty and staff for rallying and collaborating around this issue, for being creative and supportive of one another and above all our students.
 - Anticipate the situation will make us improve in many ways, e.g., communication, collaboration, transparency, business processes, and the like.

Also:

- No decision yet on Commencement.
- We have closed Rome and ordered home all study abroad students.
- Much collaboration among the Consortium of DC Universities.
- It is a difficult time to be an executive and asked for prayers.

Update on Dean Searches

- Three dean searches (Architecture, Arts & Sciences, and National Catholic School of Social Service) are underway.
- Committees are fully staffed. Architecture chaired by Steve and the other two by me.
- The Committees have each selected 6-11 candidates for "airport interviews" that will be taking place in the next week via Zoom with a goal to select a few candidates for consideration by President Garvey for possible campus interviews.
- The overall goal is still to have the new deans in place by July 1st; however, we will continue the searches into next year if new deans are not identified.

Focus Groups Follow-up to Gallup Climate Survey

- Six staff and faculty focus groups held in late February. Thanks to all who participated.
- The focus groups were a follow-up to the Gallup Climate Survey administered to staff and faculty last calendar year.
- Much of what surfaced in these focus groups (e.g., communication, transparency, involvement of faculty and staff, and so on) will need to be concretely worked on by necessity during the COVID-19 situation.
- We will, however, continue to follow-up on the outcomes from the focus groups.

Research Infrastructure Update

- Contract negotiations are underway with a consultant who has built robust research infrastructures at three universities.
- The consultant will review our operations from top to bottom.
- Our goal is to redouble our efforts to be a great comprehensive research university, with a concrete goal of moving to the top tier in the Carnegie Classification.

Middle States Visit

- The Middle States visit is finished. Thank you to all who were involved.
- The visit went well with no major issues. In fact, the visit team was quite complimentary of the University and its faculty and staff.
- The visit team, however, indicated we would need to address some issues with the assessment of student learning outcomes.
 - And with this shift to an online teaching modality, no time like the present!
- We have just received their draft visit report on Tuesday and we have not had a chance to digest it yet.

Tucson

- Explain basic premise of low cost quality CUA education to underserved Latino population in S AZ.
- Hand off to Vince later