

Provost Update to Senate January 14, 2021

As in recent months past, our office published a newsletter with lots of current information in it. Please take a look for more details: <https://provost.catholic.edu/newsletters>

TEACHING - SPRING

- Classes will not be canceled for the March for Life this year since students will still be subject to quarantine.
- Enrollment Services has updated the [modalities](#) for spring courses. Consult Cardinal Students for current room assignments.
- The numbers of undergraduate students registered by school and the distribution of their course modalities can be found [here](#).
- The numbers of graduate students registered by school and the distribution of their course modalities can be found [here](#).
- Students have the option to elect to be fully remote in the spring by filling out this [form](#). It will be helpful to collect this information as we do the next level of class planning.
- As a reminder, we are planning to start online classes January 25 and in person classes Feb 8 (the end of the drop/add period is Feb 6). We are continuing with the plan for students to quarantine for 2 weeks upon arrival in January.
- The spring welcome newsletter is scheduled to be sent to all faculty members tomorrow with more information and a reminder of the updated calendar for the first few weeks of the spring semester.
- There was a question about whether or not grade distributions changed last fall semester compared to pre-covid. It turns out that the grade distributions are more or less the same as last year. See the spreadsheet of grades in fall 2019 vs fall 2020 [here](#).

CONTINUED TRAINING FOR FACULTY

- Practice teaching in the new classrooms:
 - 16 faculty members from 6 schools attended training sessions held from January 5 through today (January 14).
- In order to accommodate the upcoming semester's courses, lectures, and events, all Zoom Cloud recordings made prior to January 1, 2021 must be deleted, with deletion currently scheduled for Friday, January 15, 2021.
- All faculty members are encouraged to download your Zoom Cloud recordings and archive them to your Cardinal Google Drive. Directions for this downloading and storage process can be found at the following [Technology Services website](#).
- In the future, the deletion of all Zoom Cloud recordings will take place one week after final grades are due for a given semester, so please plan accordingly moving forward.

NEW GRANT AWARDS

- Award from the U.S. Office of Naval Research to Diego Turo and Joe Vignola, Mechanical Engineering, \$241,012 for “Modeling atmospheric acoustics with meteorological complexity and surface heterogeneity.”

- Award from Atkins Energy Federal to Iann Pegg, VSL, \$236,003 for “IHI JNFL Testing.”

PROPOSAL ACTIVITY

- A proposal to NASA to establish a center for research and exploration in heliophysics was submitted January 9th. This proposal would consolidate two existing NASA centers, one led by Catholic, the other by UMBC. Catholic is the lead institution on the new proposal titled “Partnership for Heliophysics and Space Environment Research (PHaSER), with team members UMBC, University of Maryland, College Park, George Mason University, Howard University, and Universities Space Research Association. The proposal is for \$64M over five years, with a potential renewal option that would bring the total project to over \$150M over ten years. The award is expected to be made in March for a May 1, 2021 start.
- This week, Catholic will submit a proposal to the University of Maryland, College Park as a subawardee on their proposal to NASA for the renewal of our current partnership in the Center for Research and Exploration in Space Science and Technology II. The proposal is for \$23M for a five year extension. Start date on the extension is April 1, 2022.

FACULTY GRANT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- The university will provide faculty webinars discussing proposal strategies for major federal agency programs. Upcoming webinars include:
 - January: Department of Defense Early Investigators Program (date to be announced soon)
 - February: NIH
 - March-April: NSF Early Career Program

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

- Based on the January 6th 9th Spring 2021 Graduate Application Statistics Report:
 - Spring 2021 Master’s Statistics (compared to Spring 2020 – comparison date of 1/9/2021)
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 10 applications (-4.9%);
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 5 admissions (-3.3%);
 - Overall, there is an increase of 7 deposits (+8.0%).
 - Spring 2021 Doctoral Statistics (compared to Spring 2020 – comparison date of 1/9/2021)
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 7 applications (-15.2%);
 - Overall, there is an increase of 1 admissions (+3.8%);
 - Overall, there is an increase of 0 deposits (+0%).
- Based on the January 6th Fall 2021 Graduate Application Statistics Report:

- Fall 2021 Master’s Statistics (compared to Fall 2020 – comparison date of 1/9/2021)
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 34 applications (-15.0%);
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 29 admissions (-29.9%);
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 2 deposits (-12.5%).
- Fall 2021 Doctoral Statistics (compared to Fall 2020 – comparison date of 1/9/2021)
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 21 applications (-6.0%);
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 5 admissions (-17.9%);
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 1 deposit (-20.0%).

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

- See [here](#) for the January 6th Undergraduate [application report](#).
- See [here](#) for the January 6th Undergraduate [deposit report](#).

NEW ACADEMIC AREA FORMS

- We are beginning a process to replace a number of academic area “paper-based” forms with “electronic forms”. Several forms that are widely used by faculty and/or graduate students have recently been replaced with Google Forms (available on the [Graduate Studies website](#)):
 - [Application for Leave](#) (e.g., sabbatical requests)
 - [Confidential Report of the Secretary of the Board on Oral Examination for the Doctorate](#)
 - Instructions for secretaries of the board can be found [here](#).
 - [Request for Change in Doctoral Dissertation Committee](#)
 - [Request for Change in Doctoral Dissertation Title](#)

ALEXANDRIA

- On Monday, Virginia state regulators gave final approval to the university’s proposal to operate a satellite instructional center in Alexandria, Virginia.
- Renovation and equipping of the space is almost complete, and we expect to start operations there around February 1.
- The space has seven classrooms, multiple breakout rooms, and offices for staff.
- The Metropolitan School plans to offer noncredit, undergraduate and graduate programs there; and other schools at the university have been considering how to use the space as well.

GLOBAL STRATEGIES

Rome Program opportunities for faculty. Application deadline is 03/05/2021. Regular full-time Catholic University faculty are invited to apply to teach undergraduate courses in the Catholic University Rome Program that are both appropriate to the location and suitable for a wide range of Catholic University undergraduate majors. Cross-listed courses are highly encouraged. Faculty in Rome may expect a teaching load of three undergraduate courses. The department chair or school dean will determine, based on the needs of the department or school, the teaching load for the semester spent at Catholic University prior to or following the Rome Program appointment. More information in the OGS [call for proposals](#).