

Provost Update to Senate April 8, 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>

TENURE CLOCK EXTENSION 2.0

- We had a check-in meeting with tenure-track faculty on March 19, 2021 to see how things are going.
- There were strong concerns with continued impacts of the pandemic to research productivity.
- Faculty Handbook Provision – extension of tenure clock
 - *.099 In extraordinary circumstances, commonly called force majeure, including political unrest, natural disaster, government regulation or a public health or safety emergency, which cause a major disruption of the academic life of the university, the Provost may propose up to a one-year general extension of the then-current term appointment of tenure track faculty as described in II-C-7 of the Faculty Handbook.*
 - *The Provost shall propose the general extension to the Academic Senate by way of a motion.*
 - *The Academic Senate must approve the motion with a two-thirds majority vote of the eligible voters.*
- **I would like to propose in the next Academic Senate meeting this month that we vote to make a general one-year extension of the tenure-clock for those currently in the probationary period**
- Individuals are not obligated to take this extension and may come up for tenure as per the Faculty Handbook.

TEACHING - SPRING

- Thank you for submitting midterm grades. We plan to continue the practice of asking for midterm grades to be submitted each semester for all undergraduate students.
- The university is approaching our storage limit with Blackboard Learn. We started removing course materials from Spring 2019 on March 1. Please make sure you have backed up any course materials.
- We completed a midterm course feedback process. Results were shared with the deans.

ASSESSMENT

- We submitted a [Supplemental Information Report](#) to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) on April 1 as required.
- Student Learning Outcome reports for AY 19-20 are available on our [MSCHE website](#) and were submitted to MSCHE to support the SIR submission
- We developed a [General Education Assessment Plan](#) to support the SIR submission.

- Thank you to all who worked on this. A special thanks to Lynn Mayer!

UNIVERSITY PRESS

- In addition to book sales, which are its highest ever, CUA Press revenue from journal subscriptions has also achieved a record level. This is primarily as a consequence of the abiding popularity of its journals with patrons of the electronic journals databases Project Muse and Jstor.

NEW GRANT AWARDS

- **Subaward granted to Tommy Wiklind, Physics, from the University of Maryland (prime award from NASA) for \$26.9M for the six year renewal of The Center for Research and Exploration in Space Science and Technology (CRESST II)!!!**
- Grant awarded to Crisstian Farradas, Physics, from NASA for \$331,142 for Investigation of the Electric Field in the Inner Magnetosphere and the Influence on Plasmasphere Erosion and Plasma Sheet Access.
- Grant awarded to Paul Kurth, Law, from Department of the Treasury IRS for \$100,000 for the 2021 Low Income Taxpayer Clinic.
- Grant awarded to Caroline Sherman, A&S, from Teagle Foundation for \$25,000 for Knowledge for Freedom Planning Grant “Imperfect Histories: A Summer Institute”.
- Grant awarded to Ian Pegg, VSL, from Atkins Energy for \$330,750 for WRPS TESting to Address Acetonitrile Destruction in the ETF.
- Grant awarded to Pertti Makela, Physics, from NSF for \$353,740 for Coronal-Mass-Ejection-Driven Shocks and Sustained Gamma-Ray Emission Events.

PROPOSAL ACTIVITY

- Submitted to U.S. Department of Education from Vince Kiernan, Metro, for \$232,052 for Educational Opportunity Center.
- Submitted to NASA from Leon Ofman, Physics, for \$651,145 for Hybrid Modeling of Solar Wind Proton and Alpha Velocity Distribution, Temperature, Anisotropies, and HEating Guided by Parak Solar Probe Data.
- Submitted to NASA from Tongjiang Wang, Physics, for \$747,806 for Probing the Solar Corona with MHD Waves on Local and Global States.
- Submitted to The Institute for Technology in Healthcare from Jeanne Moore, Nursing for \$48,740 for Training Graduate and Undergraduate Nursing Students to Use Telehealth Technology Using a Multi-Modal Approach.
- Submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention from Melissa Grady, NCSSS, for \$435,533 for Enhancing and Implementing Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior for Adolescents with Problem Sexual Behavior in Georgia’s Department of Justice.
- Submitted to NSF from Jason Davison, Civil Engineering, for \$749,933 for Building Bridges: Linking Catholic High Schools, Higher Education, and the STEM Workforce.

FACULTY GRANT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- The university will provide faculty webinars discussing proposal strategies for major federal agency programs. Upcoming webinars include:
 - April: NSF Early Career Program (recorded webinar)
 - April 30, 12:00 pm: NIH 101

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH DAY - THURSDAY, APRIL 15

Schedule of Events:

Online: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Recorded oral presentations and poster presentations

Live Webinar Sessions:

9:00 am

Welcome from President John Garvey

9:15 am

"Catholic University: A Research University" presentation by Provost Aaron Dominguez

10:00 am

2021 Keynote Speech: "Design of a COVID-19 Vaccine by CRISPR Engineering of Bacteriophage T4" by Dr. Venigalla B. Rao

4:00 pm

Research Awards Ceremony:

- Provost's Faculty Research Awards (Achievement in Research, Young Scholar Award)
- FYE Essay Prize
- Research Day Student Oral and Poster Presentation Awards

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

I would ask those of you involved in admitting students to act as quickly as possible on the applications. Time-to-decision is a key factor driving enrollment for many of the revenue generating programs.

- Based on the April 1st Fall 2021 Graduate Application Statistics Report:
 - Fall 2021 Master's Statistics (compared to Fall 2020 – comparison date of 4/2/2020)
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 48 applications (-7.8%);
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 55 admissions (-13.4%);
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 11 deposits (-9.7%).
 - Fall 2021 Doctoral Statistics (compared to Fall 2020 – comparison date of 4/2/2020)
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 44 applications (-9.5%);
 - Overall, there is a decrease of 37 admissions (-27.0%);

- Overall, there is a decrease of 9 deposits (-20.9%).

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

- See [here](#) for the March 31st Undergraduate [deposit report](#).

GLOBAL STRATEGIES

- The deadline to decide whether the summer program in Rome will happen is April 15th. We currently have 45 applicants to go to Rome in two sessions of 4 weeks each.
- The deadline to decide whether the Fall program in Rome will happen is May 15th (minimum number of students to keep the Center open is 15 and we currently do not have enough applicants).
- OGS hosted an open house for students and parents interested in studying at the Rome Center last week. The Provost, the Rome Center Director, faculty from Rome, students who have studied in Rome, faculty who have taught in Rome, and 16 students and parents attended the event.
- OGS is working with the School of Business to recruit students to go to Rome in the Fall of 2021.
- OGS, in partnership with the Center of Cultural Engagement, is organizing Global Fest on April 19-22.
- OGS has received 20 applicants for five summer programs including Spanish for Health Care in Costa Rica and the Oxford Summer Institute.

LIBRARIES

- The University Librarian and the Director of Research & Instruction met with the GSA President and a GSA representative to discuss priorities for graduate students regarding the use of the Libraries. They had met with a SGA representative earlier in the semester.
- Beginning April 5, reserving a study space in Mullen Library became easier, and the library will no longer be closing during the day for cleaning. Frequent disinfecting of all common, high-contact surfaces will be on-going throughout the day. Reservations will be available for all [hours](#) that Mullen Library is open. There will be no limitation to how many hours may be reserved, but please be courteous to other students and only schedule for times you realistically expect to use. Library users will be required to submit a reservation request at least 2 hours in advance of their selected time and reservations can be made 10 days in advance. [For more information and to reserve a study space in Mullen Library, please click here.](#)
- A library fee was approved in the FY2022 budget. This should generate on the order of \$900,000 of additional funds for library acquisitions and perhaps to address staffing issues.
- This week is [National Library Week](#) (April/4-10) and the theme is Welcome to your Library!