

Provost Update to Senate November 16, 2023

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Academic Area has now transitioned from paper payroll timesheets to the [MyTime system](#). If you are a faculty member who supervises staff members or student workers, you should have been invited to participate in a training session on how to approve worker hours in the MyTime system. If you have not participated in MyTime training, you will need to contact the Office of Human Resources at HR-MyTime@cua.edu. For more information, please visit the MyTime website and read through the [FAQ for employees](#) and [FAQ for approvers](#) as needed. Training modules for managers/approvers are also available on the [MyTime website](#).
- Bookstore adoptions are due December 8
 - Please use this [link](#) to request books for the spring semester
 - From this adoption process, it populates the required books in Cardinal Station which allows students to see the costs of classes before registering, allows students with external funding to get their books if they are required to purchase from the bookstore, and keeps the university in compliance - even if students select to not buy their books through the bookstore

VOLUNTARY SEPARATION PACKAGE

- 31 faculty returned Letters of Intent (LOI) by the October 20th deadline.
- Thus far, 15 faculty have submitted signed VSP agreements.
- The remaining 16 eligible faculty have until later this semester to submit signed VSP agreements, if they voluntarily elect to do so.
- Deans have reported they will be able to manage spring 2024 courses by hiring lecturers, including hiring retiring faculty as lecturers in some instances.
- Potential accreditation impacts will definitely be addressed directly by hiring the appropriate faculty.

GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT (GE) RULE

- On October 10, 2023, the U.S. Department of Education finalized the Gainful Employment rule. (See the [Federal Register](#) for the final rule.) This rule has a history of close to 15 years.
- [Here](#) is a summary from a law firm explaining the rule.
- The final rule, which will almost certainly be fought in the courts, as have previous versions of the rule, takes effect July 1, 2024, with initial reporting due on July 31, 2024.
- In a nutshell, what does the rule mean for us? Beginning July 31, 2024, we will need to report a number of metrics regarding our programs and our students' debt burden. The Department of Education will use that information to calculate, for each of our programs, our graduates' ability to meet these debt obligations as well as how their earnings stack up against peers with only a high school degree.

- For each “gainful employment” program – that is, our non-degree (certificates, and the like) programs – Title IV eligibility will be impacted if the program’s graduates fail either metric described above.
- For all programs – GE and non-GE (i.e. degree) alike – these metrics will be published on a public website maintained by the Department of Education. Although failing non-GE programs will not lose their Title IV eligibility, students will not be permitted to enroll in failing GE programs until they have acknowledged seeing the information published by the Department about the program’s poor financial outcomes for graduates.
- However, Catholic University is well-positioned to take on this compliance challenge; discussions have already begun within the University and with outside counsel about identifying, gathering, and compiling the relevant information in a timely manner.

CARNEGIE RESEARCH CLASSIFICATION

- The American Council on Education and Carnegie Foundation [have announced](#) changes to the R1 research classification beginning in 2025. (See also [this](#) Chronicle of Higher Education article.)
- The “old system” of determining R1 status was based on 10 variables.
- The “new system” of determining R1 status is based on 2 variables: (1) a minimum of \$50M of research expenditures and (2) a minimum of 70 awarded research doctorates.
- In FY 23, our research expenditures stood at just under \$44M and we awarded 72 research doctorates.
- With the continued growth in our research expenditures (we have nearly doubled them in the last 4 years), we are on a path to obtain R1 status in the 2028 rankings (the rankings are released every three years.)
- [This graphic](#) shows the trajectory of research expenditures over the last seven years and [this graphic](#) shows the indirect cost recovery (“overhead”) over the same time period. [This graphic](#) shows research doctorates awarded over the same period.
- We are well on the track to become an R1 university.
- We will continue to grow research expenditures and aim for well over 100 PhDs/yr.

UNDERGRADUATE UPDATES

- Open House was held on Sunday, November 12
- Spring Admission Events:
 - Admitted Student Events:
 - Feb 17, 2024 Cardinal Preview Day #1
 - April 4, 2024 Cardinal Preview Day #2
 - Counselor Events:
 - Late January Local Counselors
 - Feb 25 to Feb 27, 2024 Counselor Fly-In Program
- Registration date pilot - please send feedback to mayer@cua.edu
- Faculty advising
 - Update requirements for majors in the Academic Advising Report/Degree Audit in Cardinal Students so that faculty advisors have the correct information on

- degree requirements; work with Enrollment Services if updates are needed
- Take notes in Cardinal Success (EAB Navigate) so that we have documentation of advising appointments

REPRESENTATIVE NEW GRANT AWARDS

- To Diego Turo, Mechanical Engineering, \$24,459 from Office of Naval Research for “Student Capstone Design Projects to Support Naval Engineering Workforce Development”
- To George Nehmetallah, EE/Computer Science, \$35,529 from Smart Imaging Systems, Inc., for “Developing of Next Version of a Graphical user Interface (GUI) for a X-ray Scanning System”
- To Bob Robinson, Physics/IACS, \$102,731 from NASA for “Validation of CCMC Ionosphere Models Using HF Ray Tracing Technique”

REPRESENTATIVE PROPOSAL ACTIVITY

- From Diego Turo, Mechanical Engineering, \$333,463 to Office of Naval Research for “Modeling Near-Shore Acoustics”
- From Peter Lum, Biomedical Engineering, \$523,421 to Georgetown University for subaward on NIH prime proposal for “Role of Intracortical Inhibition in Upper Extremity (EU) Motor Recovery”
- From Hassan Akbari, Physics/IACS, \$995,963 to NASA for “Variability of the Ionospheric Conductivity at Very High Latitudes During Northward Bz”
- From Suk-Bin Kang, Physics/IACS, \$999,826 to NASA for “What Processes Are Defining the Ionospheric Conductivity and Its Variability During Geomagnetic Disturbance?”

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

- [Walters Art Museum exhibition, “Ethiopia at the Crossroads”](#). Two manuscripts from the Weiner collection of Ethiopic codices in the Semitics/ICOR Library will be featured in the traveling Walters Art Museum exhibition, “Ethiopia at the Crossroads”. The exhibition opens at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore December 3 – March 3. It will then move to the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA April 13 – July 7, followed by the Toledo Museum of Art in Ohio August 18 – November 10.
- [LibreTexts OER Collection added to SearchBox, the library catalog](#). [Libretexts](#) is a collection of Open Education Resources (OER) authored by faculty and published by colleges and universities which provides an opportunity for faculty and subject experts to collaborate and build freely available OER. It offers a wide variety of materials from STEM to Humanities. Boasting 154 available courses, the Libretexts project has supported over \$31 million in textbooks savings to university and college students across the country. Please contact Melissa Foge (foge@cua.edu), Outreach Librarian, with any questions about open access textbooks or locating relevant OER for your courses.
- On display in the May Gallery is our fall 2023 exhibit, *From Model to Reality: The Limitless Potential of 3D Printing*. This exhibit highlights 3D printing at Catholic

University by several schools and departments. In addition, you will get a glimpse of: the brief history and fast-paced development of 3D printing, its many applications today and its intriguing potential, and discover resources to help you explore the subject more deeply.

- [Special Collections](#). Our Curator of American Catholic History Collections, Maria Mazzenga, will offer a class, *History and Theory of Cultural Heritage Institutions*, in Spring 2024. The course is open to both Library and Information Science and History Department students and will offer an overview of the history and theory of cultural heritage institutions whose mission is to collect, preserve, organize, interpret, and disseminate information about the cultural heritage, tangible and intangible, and by direct or virtual means.