

Provost Update to Senate May 8, 2024

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- For this final report of the season, I want to once again thank everyone—faculty, staff, and students—for a successful academic year.
- For those students who will be graduating and moving on to a new chapter in their lives, I thank you for having made this institution better by your presence here during your studies.
- God bless and have a good summer!

OUTSTANDING GRADES

- There are still outstanding grades that are due now.
- And there are still outstanding grades for graduating students that were due on Monday at noon. Of course, these must all be completed immediately. Thank you!

DEAN APPOINTMENTS

- Dean John McCarthy will be ending his tenure as Dean of the School of Philosophy this summer. John will be completing his 14th year as dean and will take advantage of a well-deserved sabbatical next academic year, after which he plans to return to the faculty and re-engage with his first loves—teaching, reading, and writing. In my time as Provost, I have appreciated and valued his collegiality as a dean during difficult times—I am truly grateful and happy to report that the President has named John Dean Emeritus of Philosophy.
- Dr. Bradley Lewis will be the acting dean of the School of Philosophy beginning July 1st, pending final confirmation from the Holy See on his four-year appointment as dean. Confirmation of the appointment by the Holy See is required under the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium*, which governs our ecclesiastical faculties of Canon Law, Philosophy, and Theology and Religious Studies. I look forward to working with Brad in the coming year and beyond as he leads the outstanding faculty, staff, and students of the School of Philosophy in its next phase of development.
- I also want to thank Mark Ferguson, Jo Ann Regan, and Tom Smith as they complete their first four-year terms as deans of their respective schools. I remember back to the spring of 2020 when we interviewed each of them via Zoom (we were in the early days of the pandemic). I am grateful for all they have done and accomplished, and am particularly grateful for how they “jumped right in” in the summer of 2020 and faced and overcame challenges that were new to all of us. They are each being reappointed to four-year terms. I look forward to working with them as new challenges come our way over the next four years (who would have imagined 4.5-5 years ago that we would have to navigate the waters of a global pandemic with three new external deans being hired!)
- Finally, as previously announced Vince Kiernan will be retiring from the University at the end of May. Vince has been a great colleague—always willing to roll up his sleeves and take on additional responsibilities (everything from our Alexandria campus to our Tucson program, and everything in between.) Vince also had time along the way to publish

Atomic Bill. While I will miss having Dr. David Long as Vice Provost for Academic Operations and Strategic Planning, I am very excited and thankful for his availability and willingness to assume the role as the Dean of the Metropolitan School of Professional Studies on June 1st. I also look forward to him participating in our Academic Senate meetings!

SUMMER ENROLLMENTS

- Summer enrollments are generally stronger than last year at this time.
- Summer undergraduate head-count is up by 9% compared to last year, and credit hours are up by 17%
- Summer graduate head-count is up by 10% compared to last year, and credit hours are up by 9%
- Summer law student head-count is down by 23% and credit hours are down by 17% compared to this time last year.
- All combined student credit hours are up by 10% at this moment compared to last year.
- There is still time to push enrollments up in the later summer sessions as well as even the upcoming one!

REPRESENTATIVE NEW GRANT AWARDS

- To Simone Di Matteo, Physics/IACS, \$6,585 from ADNET Systems, for “Parker Solar probe Plasma Diagnostics in the Context of Advanced Remote Sensing Data Products”.
- To Jia Yue, Physics/IACS, \$50,000 from NSF for “Innovations in Open Science (IOS) Planning Workshop: Advancing Open Science in Heliophysics and Space Weather Modeling: Challenges and Resolutions”.

REPRESENTATIVE PROPOSAL ACTIVITY

- From Sepideh Akhbari, VSL, \$495,168 to NSF for “Computational and Experimental Analysis of Lorenz Numbers in Thermoelectric Multicomponent Oxides: Integrating Multi-Valley Parabolic Band Models and DFT”.
- From Valentina Braitto, Physics/IACS, \$79,900 to NASA for “Monitoring the Unprecedented Disk Wind in MCG-03-58-007”.
- From Jeffrey Herrmann, Mechanical Engineering, \$669,817 to Army Research Lab for “Multi-Robot Task Coordination and Hierarchical Planning for Autonomous Maneuver”.
- From Gunnar Lucko, Civil Engineering, \$49,967 to Electri International for “Enabling Effective Prompt Payment Incentives for Cash Flow”.

EDUCATING CHARACTER INITIATIVE

- The University’s Institutional Impact Grant proposal for the Lilly Foundation/Wake Forest University Educating Character Initiative has advanced to the final round of consideration. The Catholic proposal, led by President Kilpatrick and Deans Andrew Abela and Thomas Smith, will be competing for an award of between \$500,000 and

\$1,000,000. The Initiative aims to bring together a broad and diverse community of individuals and institutions to strengthen the understanding, integration, and education of character in undergraduate institutions.

CUA PRESS

- The Press is in the final stages of negotiations to distribute books within the United States for the Spanish publisher Rialp. By so doing, we hope to expand Rialp's internationally, but also to learn more ourselves about the Spanish-language book market.
- Our recent publication *Hockey Priest*, by Matt Hoven, is the best-selling biography in Canada, as per Amazon.ca.
- David Foley's book *Peter Comestor's Lectures on the Glossed Gospel of John* has just been published. It is the inaugural volume in our new series "Texts and Studies in High Medieval Scholastic Thought", edited by Mark Clark (TRS) and Timothy Noone (Philosophy).

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

- *Collecting DC History*. Special Collections staff participated in [Collecting DC History](#) at the Historic Heurich House Museum on April 21, 2024. The event featured local archivists from a range of DC archives consulting with members of the public on the care and practice of collecting archival materials.
- *Summer Reminders*. While many may be off-campus during the summer, library services and collections remain fully available. Some of you may be doing your own research, others preparing for Summer and Fall classes, and others just catching up on leisure reading or movie watching. We have thousands of articles and books that can be accessed remotely, as well as lots of streaming audio and video, and our staff is only a phone call or email away if you need assistance.
- *Focus on our Students*. Students often tell librarians two things: a) that they cannot afford to buy all the required books for their classes and b) that they wish they knew their way around library resources. Work with the librarians to set your students up for success by a) considering to use more free, open educational resources in your classes and b) scheduling library instruction for your classes. Your [liaison librarian](#) is more than happy to assist.