

Provost Update to Senate September 16, 2021

Thank you all for what seems to be a very good start to our extraordinary fall semester of the academic year 2021/2022.

A reminder that our regular newsletter with lots of current information in it can be found here:

<https://provost.catholic.edu/newsletters>

FALL SEMESTER

- Please consult the [Provost FAQ](#) for guidance this semester. We do update this. However, if there were to be major changes, we would notify you by email.
- The University maintains a COVID [testing dashboard](#) which is updated each Tuesday and Friday.
- Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, Enrollment Services, and Technology Services have worked together to implement a new way to officially communicate which students (undergraduate and graduate) are in quarantine and for what time period by creating a new Cardinal Station hold called “quarantine.” You can see this status by downloading your class roster in Cardinal Station. You will need to download it regularly to see which students should not be attending classes. If you have questions about this, please reach out to your chair, dean or us.
- For undergraduate students, we will be sending out a progress report through the Cardinal Success platform. This will happen the last week of September (week 5) to identify students who are in need of tutoring, writing assistance, or any other type of support.
- Thank you all who could take part in the Freshman Convocation we had this Wednesday.
- The Fall Faculty Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21 and will be held outdoors. All full-time faculty have been invited to attend, and [an RSVP form](#) is due back to the Provost Office by tomorrow at noon. I look forward to breaking bread with you.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE SPRING SEMESTER

- Similarly to the fall semester, unless things change, the current plan is to be fully in-person for the spring semester.
- Please make sure that you check the course roll-over to change the teaching modality in all four places in Cardinal Students.

ASSESSMENT

- In April 2021, we reported that we had submitted a [Supplemental Information Report](#) to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) on April 1 as required.
- We were [notified](#) on July 7, 2021 that MSCHE had taken accreditation action in June 2021.
- That action is reported on [MSCHE’s website](#) and our status is summarized in this [screenshot](#).
- We are scheduled for our [Mid-Point Peer Review](#) in 2024 and our next [Self-Study Evaluation](#) in 2027-2028. Note that MSCHE now requires self-study evaluations on an 8-year cycle and not on the “old” 10-year cycle.

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

- The single largest award ever received by the university came in from NASA with a July 1, 2021 start date. The Partnership for Heliophysics and Space Environment Research

(PHaSER) project in the Institute for Astrophysics and Computational Sciences (Physics, A&S) will be lead by Catholic University, under the direction of Dr. Bob Robinson with partner institutions UMBC, University of Maryland, George Mason, and Howard, with additional subawards to USRA, ASTRA, Syntek, University of Michigan and George Washington University. The full value of the award is currently \$64.1M for a five-year period, but it is expected that number will increase over the final two years of the project.

- During the months of June through August, the university submitted 53 research proposals requesting funding of \$19.7M. Over that same time period, we received 22 new awards, totaling \$68.96M, (\$4.88M when excluding the above NASA award). Representative proposals and awards are listed below.

REPRESENTATIVE NEW GRANT AWARDS

- NSF funding for Enhancing Student Help-Seeking Behavior and Reinforcing Problem-Solving Skills in Online Math Learning. Three years at \$299,953 for Kiran Bhutani, PI (Math, A&S), Anita Shagnea, Co-PI (Math, A&S), and Kathryn Bojczyk, Co-PI (Education, A&S).
- NSF funding for Coronal-Mass-Ejection-Driven Shocks and sustained Gamma-Ray Emission Events . Three years at \$353,740 for Pertti Makela, PI (Physics IACS).
- Funding from the Maryland Historical Trust for Investigating Jesuit Plantation Landscapes in Maryland: Archeological and Geophysical Survey. Two years at \$70,000 for Laura Masur, PI (Anthropology, A&S).
- NASA funding for several instrumentation projects. \$52,724 for up to two years for George Nehmetallah, PI (EE/CS, Engineering).
- Teagle Foundation and National Endowment for the Humanities for Design Cohort-Based Pathways Through Universities Existing Liberal Arts Curriculum. One year at \$25,000 for Ernie Suarez, PI (A&S) and David Cloutier, Co-PI (STRS).
- NSF funding for Community Coordinated Modeling Center: Facilitating Space Weather Research, Advancing Forecasting, and Providing Hands-on Opportunities for Education. Five years at \$2,554,800 for Jia Yue, PI (Physics IACS).
- Childrens Research Institute funding for LEND and Related Disorders Training Program. Five years at \$72,165 for Michaela Farber, PI (NCSSS).

REPRESENTATIVE PROPOSAL ACTIVITY

- Melissa Grady, NCSSS, US Department of Justice, \$435,533.
- Tanja Horn, Physics A&S, US Department of Energy, \$988,303.
- Venigalla Rao, Biology A&S, NIH through University of Texas Medical Branch, \$2,0220,629.
- Diego Turo, Mechanical Engineering, Office of Naval Research, \$64,914.
- Stephen Connaghan, Libraries, National Endowment for the Humanities, \$147,254.
- Jeanne Moore, Nursing, Institute for Technology in Health Care, \$885,075.
- Pam Tuma, Biology A&S, NIH, \$1,542,800.
- Peter Delany and Joe Shields, NCSSS, Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts, \$455,995.

- Gustavo Ahualli, Rome School, National Endowment for the Humanities, \$349,800.
- Julio Bermudez, Architecture and Planning, Templeton Religion Trust, \$233,977.

ENROLLMENT

- Fall 2021 headcount as of September 14 is as follows. A full report is linked [here](#).
 - Undergraduate 2936 vs. budget of 2909 (0.9% above budget)
 - Graduate 1709 vs. budget of 1800 (5.1% below budget)
 - Law 408 vs. budget of 396 (3.0% above budget)

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

- We have hired a new Dean of Graduate Admission, Ms. Mary Ellen Mahoney, who will be joining us early next month.
- She will manage and be responsible for graduate admissions, working closely with graduate recruiters, deans, and faculty in growing graduate enrollment.

GLOBAL STRATEGIES

- The Rome Center will reopen this week after closing in May of last year. The class of 2021 has 9 students and one faculty from CUA Prof. Max Torres (Busch School of Business) joining the Rome Center faculty for the Fall semester starting on 09/20.
- ISSS has processed visas for 37 international graduate students, 10 undergraduates, 2 Intensive English students, plus 22 exchange undergrad students and 1 exchange grad student (for comparison purposes, pre-covid, those numbers were 68, 33, 6, 20, 4).
- Hispanic Heritage Month (09-15 to 10-15) has a series of events including book launch with the Brazilian Senate and the Oliveira Lima Library on 09/27 (Voices of Independence), the one year anniversary of the Institute for Latin American and Iberian Studies (ILAIS), lectures, exhibits and videos to be announced on social media of ILAIS, the Center for Cultural Engagement (CCE), the Department of History, the Department of Modern Languages, OGS, among others.
 - Campus ministry will be having Sunday Mass in Spanish off the ground by September 19.
 - If you are planning an event, let Duilia de Mello know and she will add to the [list](#) to be advertised on social media.

LIBRARIES

- Hiring and training of student employees is moving along well. Currently weekend and evening services are slightly limited, but Mullen Library should be back to normal schedule and on-site services in a couple of weeks. libraries.catholic.edu/about-us/library-hours.html
- There are some gaps in the Libraries' Research & Instruction team this semester. Please see the list of liaison librarians for how best to schedule classroom instruction and research consultations. libraries.catholic.edu/contact-us/liaison-librarians.html

- A greater proportion of staff departures are affecting the Libraries' already small acquisitions, cataloging and electronic resources units. We are moving to fill these positions as quickly as possible.
- The Digital Scholarship Workshops series begins again next week with, aptly, *Starting a Digital Scholarship Project*. More details on this and other workshops in the series can be found online. libraries.catholic.edu/services/digital-scholarship/
- *Thomism Through Time*, an exhibit featuring rare books and medieval manuscripts associated with the works of Thomas Aquinas, will be on view in Mullen Library, September 24 – November 23. A panel discussion, in partnership with the Thomistic Institute, is scheduled for September 24. nest.cua.edu/event/7197245
- *The Sacred in the Modern: The Art of Helen Schrider Higgins* will be on display in the May Gallery from October 4 – January 9. Helen Schrider Higgins received her B.A. and M.F.A. at CU in the 1950s, studying with Alexander Giampietro, a sculptor and ceramic artist who attended the New Bauhaus of Chicago, and Kenneth Noland, the celebrated Washington Color School painter. Her primary themes—the New Testament and the lives of the saints and nature—share a reverence for the miraculous.