

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Michelle Maldonado, Ph.D.  
Interim Provost/Senior VPAA

DATE: September 2, 2022

SUBJECT: Provost Report for September 9, 2022

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**1. COVID 19 Update**

The updated policy was sent to the University community before the start of the fall semester. Indoor masking in all campus buildings remains optional regardless of vaccination status. Faculty may require that well-fitted, higher-grade masks or double masks be worn in instructional spaces. Employees and students can also require individuals to wear well-fitted, higher-grade masks or double masks in their personal workspaces or residence hall rooms.

Faculty will receive an email from [absencenotificaiton@scranton.edu](mailto:absencenotificaiton@scranton.edu) of student COVID-related absences.



these updated standards were released in late August, and, following public review and comment, are expected to be in place in late fall. Amongst other changes, the draft includes new language to

Michele Boland	Lecturer	Nursing
Laura Skoronski Chavez	Assistant Professor	Nursing

**AY 2022-2023**  
Maureen Carroll  
Will Cohen

Jean Harris  
Sharon Hudacek

#### **10. Graduate Education**

Since our online course calendar and our on-campus course calendar are now aligned, a redesign of our online courses offered through our online partners, Wiley Education, was needed. We are nearing the end of the project that has provided the opportunity for our faculty to redesign each of their courses from 8-week versions to 7-week versions. A total of 102 courses are within the scope of this project. We expect the project to be completed by the spring 2022 semester.

the design of the on-campus (delivered online) graduate program, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program has been completed with the assistance of Awesome Films and Collegis Education Services;



In partnership with the Education Department, Dr. Gerard Dumancas, Associate Professor of Chemistry, has welcomed our first student into the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program. The program provides funding to institutions of higher education to provide scholarships, stipends, and programmatic support to recruit and prepare STEM majors and professionals to become K-12 teachers. The program seeks to increase the number of K-12 teachers with strong STEM content knowledge who teach in high-need school districts. Dr. Nathaniel Frissell has recently been notified by the National Science Foundation that his grant to expand his research with the low-cost Personal Space Weather Station has been approved. This \$400k collaborative award with Case Western University is 3-year project that will fully support a MS SE student at the University of Scranton.

The medical clinic in the Leahy Community Health and Family Center (LCHFC) will remain closed for the 2022-23 academic year. Administration is working to pursue strategic partnerships for reopening. Some of the other clinics in the LCHFS reopened during 2021-22 and will continue to be fully operational during this academic year, i.e., the Physical Therapy Clinic and the Low-Vision Occupational Therapy Clinic. The first phase of the Counseling Clinic reopening will take place this fall with Peacemakers, an afterschool program for 9-13-year-old children to experience and explore the meaning, history and vision of peacemaking and to develop the skills necessary to carry these experiences into the future.

The Leahy Physical Therapy Clinic Outreach Program for Refugee Women received a \$25,000 grant from AllOne Charities. The grant supports equipment and supplies, translation services and transportation for DPT students to set up and conduct faculty-supervised PT and health education clinics for uninsured and under-insured community members, particularly refugee or resettled women and families, in their own neighborhoods or community spaces. The PCPS Dean's Office has asked each of the department chairs in PCPS to identify one Diversity Equity and Inclusion goal from the DEI strategic plan to action and report on during the year and in their annual report. The PCPS Dean's Office is also taking steps to ensure that the Office of Equity and Diversity is included from the earliest stages in all of our faculty searches during this year.

PCPS is developing a number of new programs that will leverage successful existing programs. These will include dual degree programs between fully on-line programs at the university, as well as accelerated programs such that an undergraduate student can accelerate into an on-line master's program during their final undergraduate year. Two programs already making their way through the curriculum approval process are 1) Bachelor's degree in Counseling and Human Services accelerating in the MS in Applied Behavioral Analysis and 2) Bachelor's degree in Psychology accelerating into the MS in Applied Behavioral Analysis. Michael Bermudez, Ed.D., assistant professor of occupational therapy at The University of Scranton, received the pre