Architecture graduate program ranks in the top five publics, per Design Intelligence Dean’s Survey

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

Welcome to the first edition of a new quarterly communication of Academic Division highlights prepared for the UVA Board of Visitors. I hope this will provide you with a broad but concise sense of the progress in our 11 schools, and how these efforts connect to move the University forward.

What follows is a selection of accomplishments from the second quarter of FY17 shared by the deans of the schools and the Library. You will see certain trends this quarter:

This is already an outstanding year for hiring—indicated not only by the “marquee” hires I shared with you in the Provost Update at the December BOV meeting, but also the general hiring trends in the schools, including successful cluster and TOPs hires that speak to our long-range strategy both for addressing faculty turnover and meeting our research goals.

On the research front, productivity is rising; we see this not only in the funding numbers I report quarterly, but also in game-changing peer-reviewed research. In these pages you’ll also read about some of the new grants won this quarter by our faculty, and recognition for our student researchers and inventors as well.

Not featured in these pages, but certainly on our list of second-quarter accomplishments: a highly successful 29th annual Virginia Film Festival, which has become a regional powerhouse over the last several years. Other Arts highlights were the hire of a new director and chief curator for The Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia and the Human/ties celebration of the 50th anniversary of the NEH, which drew leading thinkers and guests from all over the U.S. and beyond.

Another groundbreaking gathering this fall was the University’s first-ever Charrette, a design event for creating the culture we desire to see at UVA. I anticipate long-term successful outcomes; we have already seen the impact at the Lighting of the Lawn, where involved students chose to make the theme inclusiveness and safety, with a palpable impact on the event.

Diversity continues to be a priority for the Academic Division, and several schools highlight progress in hiring and other initiatives. In the provost’s office, we are nearing completion of the diversity plans for all the schools, due at the end of the academic year.

I appreciate your attention to these and other items detailed in this quarterly report and welcome your feedback on its format and content.

Sincerely,

Tom Katsouleas
Executive Vice President & Provost
ARCHITECTURE

Rankings
Notable outcomes of the Design Intelligence rankings for 2017:

• UVA Architecture undergraduate program ranked 4th in the Nation in the Dean’s Survey of the most admired architecture schools (the only pre-professional program in the top 5)

• UVA Architecture graduate program ranked 14th in the top 25 programs in the nation; and in the top 5 Publics (with UC-Berkeley, UCLA, Michigan, and UT-Austin)

• UVA Landscape Architecture graduate program ranked 3rd in the nation in the Dean’s Survey of the most admired architecture schools (top two were Harvard and Penn) and 7th in the top 20 Programs according to Hiring Professionals

Admissions/Enrollment
Undergraduate Applications for Architecture increased by 17.7% this year, with the most applications since 2012. This year, Architecture instituted a new direct admission policy for undergraduate pre-professional programs, to reserve them a seat in our professional graduate programs if they maintain their academic standing.

Diversity
• 3 out of 4 new full-time tenure faculty hires starting in 2016-17 are URM

• In Sept 2016, the BOV approved the IEN (Institute for Environmental Negotiation) to design the Memorial for Enslaved Workers at UVA (with Architects Howeler & Yoon and Mabel Wilson, UVA Architecture alum whose work is focused on African American history and Architecture)

Facilities
Studio Rethink is a two year project renovating/updating current studio spaces. The 4th floor was completed last summer and the 3rd floor is slated for completion at the end of summer 2017. The next phase of facilities renovation will be the Fabrication and Rapid Prototyping Lab on the first floor.
Global

- The expansion of our Global programs so that all of our students (currently we are at 64%) have a global experience while at UVA. Beyond our current programs in Asia, India, Europe, Africa, and Latin America, we will be launching a full semester abroad program for our graduate students in Barcelona next fall.

- The development of the Next Cities Institute: Designing Global Urban Futures (expanding our reach in relation to 4 key areas: globalism, urbanization, ecology + technology)

Curriculum

The School is focusing on the “Design +” trajectory—Design Thinking within and beyond the design studio—which includes the development of the Design Thinking program (for which we made two cluster hires last year with Health and Education: Elgin Cleckley and John Comazzi) as well as our Center for Design + Health.
School-Specific: Curricular Reform

With an 83 percent majority vote in May, A&S faculty voted to implement a three-year development phase (pilot) of a new curriculum, beginning with a cohort of students drawn from the entering class of 2017-18. Since the vote, the College Fellows have been formed and are making excellent progress. The College Fellows are the inaugural group of A&S faculty members focused on creating a dynamic new first-year student experience.

Faculty Recruitment

This fall, A&S welcomed 41 new tenured/tenure-track faculty, including faculty hired in multidisciplinary clusters in neuroscience, education policy, and the environment to name a few key areas. This new cohort is also one of the most diverse in A&S history. Just over half of the new faculty members are female, and more than 30 percent are faculty-of-color. Scott Doney, one of the foremost experts in climate science, is also expected to join the Department of Environmental Sciences as the University’s first Kington Chair in Environmental Change. David Parichy has been recruited to serve as the Pratt-Ivy Foundation Distinguished Professor of Morphogenesis in the Department of Biology.

Notable Events

In September, UVA hosted the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), a three-day series of events designed to showcase the central role of the humanities in national life. A $750,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation and partnerships with key local organizations helped make the “Human / Ties” events a success. In October, the Julian Bond symposium was held on Grounds honoring Bond’s life as a civil rights leader as well as his 20 years on the UVA faculty. The completion of the $3 million Bond professorship was announced at the symposium.

Global

A&S faculty voted in December to approve the UVA London First study-abroad pilot program, offering incoming students the opportunity to launch their undergraduate careers in one of the world’s most international cities. The pilot begins Fall 2017 and it paves the way for parallel programs around the world.
Advancement/Major Gifts
In the fall, A&S celebrated the successful conclusion of its Faculty Forward campaign (exceeding its $130 million goal to support the recruitment and retention of top faculty), as well as the $40 million commitment from Thompson Dean ‘79 for curricular innovations.

Research
A&S initiated the renovation of the Chemistry Building and Gilmer Hall with the goal of significantly advancing neuroscience and energy research and teaching. One component, the new prototype teaching lab, is now operational. In addition, the fall semester brought more than 10 major ($200k or more) new research awards, including the $1.37 million research award Karen Kafadar (Statistics) earned from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation.
Notable Events
On Nov. 18, 2016, the Batten School partnered with Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville to host a healthcare symposium entitled “Health Reform: Where Are We; Where Are We Going?” The symposium took place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Kennedy Caucus Room in the Russell Senate Office Building. The extensive list of speakers included Senate staff; scholars from the RAND Corporation and the Urban Institute; representatives from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and UVA professors of health policy, law, economics and business administration.

On Sept. 28, 2016, the Batten School hosted a debate between former Albemarle County Board of Supervisors Chair Jane Dittmar and Virginia State Senator Tom Garrett, the major party candidates for Virginia’s 5th congressional district seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. In front of an overflow crowd at Garrett Hall, the candidates fielded questions about their plans for domestic and foreign policy. UVA students had the opportunity to submit questions for the candidates in advance of the debate. The debate was covered extensively by local and regional media.

Advancement/Major Gifts
The Frederic S. Bocock Fellowship was established to provide internship funding for students enrolled in the Batten School’s undergraduate or masters programs who are committed to pursuing internships in federal, state or local government. The fellowship was established with a generous gift by Batten Professor Frederick Hitz and his wife Mary Buford Hitz. Professor Hitz had previously served at the Central Intelligence Agency’s first statutory Inspector General, appointed by President George H.W. Bush. The Fellowship will encourage students to pursue work in public service as well as attract new students to the Batten School. Further, the initiative will develop future leaders to tackle public policy challenges and to promote a better society.
School Specific: Affiliation with NASPAA
The Batten School and the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) announced a five-year affiliation agreement to partner in the Student Simulation Competition. “The NASPAA-Batten Student Simulation Competition” will take place in eight regional host sites across the globe annually each February. This competition will provide new opportunities to showcase our students’ skills and abilities for the public, prospective students and employers, while bringing awareness to excellence in public service education at public policy schools.

Faculty Recruitment
In the fall of 2016, the Batten School welcomed six new professors to its faculty. Their combined education and expertise will contribute to the school’s course offerings and research output. Batten School faculty are quoted and cited in major news outlets for their policy expertise, including journals such as the Washington Post, NPR, Forbes, PBS, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal.
School-Specific: New Minor

Six schools across the University of Virginia have joined forces to create the University’s newest minor for undergraduate students. The “Health and Wellbeing” minor allows students to actively obtain knowledge in the full scope of disciplines represented in the integrative concept of health and wellbeing.

Notable Events

Curry hosted US Secretary of Education John B. King for the Fall 2016 Walter N. Ridley lecture, titled The Importance of Quality Preschool and Early Learning.

Research

Groundbreaking research from the Curry School this quarter includes:

• A study that shows that emphasizing better classroom instruction—rather than classroom and behavior management—in professional development programs for teachers reduced the racial discipline gap, i.e. the disparity between disciplinary action suspensions and expulsions for African-American students and white students. The study relies on the use of MyTeachingPartner, a coaching model originally developed in 2003 by a team of researchers at Curry’s Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning.

• Curry’s Youth-Nex and the Contemplative Sciences Center are collaborating on the Compassionate Schools Project in Jefferson County, Kentucky, incorporating four essential components into the standard physical and health education curriculum: social and emotional learning, stress management, nutrition education and physical awareness and fitness. Now in its third year, the project has received an additional $1 million from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a philanthropic organization that supports projects and research related to pressing health issues, to evaluate its effectiveness. The evaluation includes a trial involving 50 schools and more than 20,000 students.

• Curry and Virginia Tech are partnering on a five-year, $2 million project to create an advanced-course curricula for gifted rural students in the 3,400-student Page County school system, one of 13 high-poverty Virginia districts. The project, called Promoting PLACE—for Place, Literacy, Achievement, Community, Engagement—starts with a common gifted-education framework developed by the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented.
Enrollment
In 2016, Darden welcomed 465 students to the Class of 2018. The residential MBA class includes 345 high achievers (up from 334 the previous year) and is the most diverse MBA class in Darden’s history, with 39 percent women and a record number of minority students. The average GMAT score of 712 is another high-water mark, and just one small indication of the intellectual abilities of our newest students.

A record 120 students enrolled in the new, integrated Executive MBA, which we announced last February. Interest in this innovative program exceeded our very ambitious expectations. The curriculum, designed by Darden faculty, gives students unprecedented flexibility.

Advancement/Major Gifts
This year, we were able to dramatically increase the number of scholarships available thanks to the ongoing success of Darden’s Scholarship Challenge. Darden alumni helped raise more than $8 million for scholarships last year, a nearly $6.5 million increase.

from the previous year. In addition, you reached the highest alumni participation ever in the Darden Annual Fund; 43 percent of Darden alumni made a gift — a symbol of the strength of our network. Fifty percent of Annual Fund gifts go toward scholarships.

Rankings
This year, Financial Times named Darden the No. 3 MBA program in the world for entrepreneurship. Darden Executive Education programs also buoyed in the rankings this spring. Financial Times recognized Darden open-enrollment programs as No. 4 in the world and No. 1 in six categories, from faculty and course design to facilities. Bloomberg Businessweek just named the Darden MBA No. 12 for the second consecutive year, with a No. 2 rating in the student survey. Last month, The Economist named Darden — for the sixth consecutive year — the No. 1 education experience in the world and the No. 3 MBA program globally. We also heard from The Princeton Review, which recognized Darden as No. 3 for Best Professors, No. 4 for Best Campus Environment and No. 5 for Most Competitive Students and Greatest Opportunity for Women.
**Notable Events**
Darden residencies, roundtables and summits were held in global centers including Singapore, New York, and Silicon Valley. Upcoming Darden.Worldwide. courses will be held in London, Belgium, and Holland, with a GEMBA residency in India slated for January.

**Strategic Planning**
Darden is currently developing a 10-year master plan, with the help of several advisory boards and the input of alumni, donors, faculty staff and students.
ENGINEERING

Rankings
UVA Engineering’s online graduate program has been named one of the 15 best in the country, according to U.S. News & World Report’s 2017 rankings of online higher education programs.

The Washington Post identified UVA as the top public university in the country for the percentage of women earning engineering degrees. Women make up 32 percent of UVA Engineering’s undergraduate enrollment, compared to the national average of 20 percent.

Faculty Honors & Accomplishments
Barry Johnson, L.A. Lacy Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has earned two new achievements: election to the National Academy of Inventors and promotion to acting assistant director for the Engineering Directorate at the National Science Foundation.

Pamela Norris, the Frederick Tracy Morse Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and executive associate dean for research, received the Society of Women Engineers’ Distinguished Engineering Educator Award for being a champion of engaging women in engineering.

Physics World editors have selected work by University of Virginia Electrical and Computer Engineering Professor Avik Ghosh and his colleagues as one of the Top Ten Breakthroughs of 2016. Ghosh and fellow researchers from Columbia University, Cornell University, the Japanese National Institute for Materials Science, Shenyang National Laboratory for Materials Science and IBM measured the negative refraction of electrons in graphene, and their work was recently published in Science.

Student Honors & Accomplishments
University of Virginia undergraduate student Jill Ferguson has been named a Truman Scholar and will receive $30,000 toward graduate school and the opportunity to participate in professional development to help prepare for a career in public service leadership. Ferguson, a third-year materials science and engineering and nanotechnology major, with an engineering business minor, works on solar photovoltaics and also earned a 2016 Belinda and Chip Blankenship Scholarship, given by 1992 materials science Ph.D. graduate Chip Blankenship to an outstanding engineering student. A graduate of the Roanoke Valley Governor’s School and Staunton River High School, Ferguson plans to pursue a Ph.D. in materials science engineering and a master’s degree in technology policy.
For inventing a new product that promises to protect farm workers and consumers alike from pesticide residue on produce, a UVA Engineering-led team has won the national Collegiate Inventors Competition and a $10,000 prize. AgroSpheres are spherical bio-particles sprayed on crops to degrade pesticides. The product and the start-up that will market it were developed by Ameer Shakeel, a fourth-year biomedical engineering major, Payam Pourtaheri, a 2016 biomedical engineering graduate, and Mark Kester, professor of biomedical engineering and pharmacology in the UVA School of Medicine and director of the NanoSTAR Institute.
School-Specific: Supreme Court Litigation Clinic
The Supreme Court Litigation Clinic celebrated its 10th year. The clinic introduces third-year students to all aspects of Supreme Court practice, short of actually arguing the cases in court. Of the 12 cases the court has heard, Virginia has won eight and a split decision in a ninth case.

For the 2012 to 2015 terms, the clinic’s record for having cert petitions granted ranks second among all nongovernmental actors, according to a study soon to be published in the Villanova Law Review. That includes law firms. The clinic has built its niche on identifying important conflicts in legal interpretation — often at the intersection of criminal and constitutional law — in which most law firms and movement lawyers wouldn’t first stake a claim.

School-Specific: Innocence Project
New DNA evidence discovered by the Innocence Project at UVA Law may lead to a man’s release from prison, nearly 50 years after his conviction. The project’s yearlong clinic provides students, working with professionals, practical experience in the investigation and litigation of wrongful convictions of inmates throughout Virginia.

Rankings
UVA Law ranks No. 3 in the number of professors among the top 100 faculty in the country cited by the judiciary, according to a new study. Three professors — Brandon Garrett, Douglas Laycock and Caleb Nelson — rank among the top 25. Virginia has eight professors in the top 100 for judicial citations.

Alumni
Among the 90 UVA Law alumni who are clerking during the 2016 term, a record 37 are clerking for U.S. Courts of Appeals. Three are at the U.S. Supreme Court, while 40 alumni are clerks for U.S. district courts and other federal courts, and 10 are clerking for state courts.

Faculty Honors & Accomplishments
Just over a year after it was published, Professor Frederick Schauer’s “The Force of Law” (Harvard University Press, 2015), which argues for law’s power to coerce behavior as its distinctive feature, has spawned a raft of scholarly responses, lectures and symposia worldwide, and even a book dedicated to the topic.
Library Specific: New Dean
A new dean was appointed in the summer of 2016: John Unsworth. Unsworth originally came to the University as a doctoral student and began working at Alderman Library. He later spent 10 years running the University’s Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, and has also worked for North Carolina State University, Brandeis University and the University of Illinois.

Library Specific: Library Research Intensive
This fall marked the pilot of a collaboration between Arts & Sciences and the Library to offer “Library Research Intensive” courses. In these courses, students have the option of receiving additional credit if they choose to work closely with librarians on an advanced research project. The program was the brainchild of faculty on the University Libraries Committee, and the pilot phase is in the process of being reviewed.

Library Specific: New Resources
New online databases and other research tools were recently added for the benefit of faculty, students, and the scholarly community at UVA, such as the HistoryMakers Video Archive. The Library is also working with UVa-Wise to improve Wise’s access to crucial online resources purchased by the Library, including e-journals, e-books, primary sources, and streaming media databases.

Facilities
Work and planning on Library facilities across Grounds and beyond continues, as spaces are reconsidered and renovated to best suit the needs of Library patrons.

Installation of a new solar roof began on Clemons Library. Also in Clemons, the second floor closed for construction of the new student advising center. The Ivy Stacks Expansion project was officially approved—in anticipation of this, the Library has been offering faculty tours of the existing facility.
Notable Events
The McIntire School of Commerce examined the challenges facing the European Union—including the evolving reality of Brexit, stresses on the Euro, and invigorated nationalism—and their implications for investors and industry during its 2016 Fall Forum Oct. 14. The event, titled “Europe at the Crossroads,” took place in UVA’s Old Cabell Hall Auditorium and was presented by the McIntire School and the McIntire Center for Global Commerce. A lively panel discussion on “Finding Value in Europe: Investor Perspectives,” followed. A second outstanding panel, moderated by Management Professor and Director of McIntire’s M.S. in Commerce Program Ira Harris, then addressed “Navigating Uncertainty: Strategic Considerations.”

School-Specific: Master’s in Global Commerce
New! The inaugural cohort of students enrolled in the new Master’s in Global Commerce program, a one-year professional master’s degree that teaches students how to effectively address business challenges within a multicountry, multicultural, high-technology business environment. Graduates will earn an M.S. in Global Commerce from the University of Virginia’s McIntire School of Commerce, an M.S. in Global Strategic Management from ESADE Business School in Barcelona, Spain, and a certificate in International Management from Lingnan (University) College at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China.

Enrollment
2016 saw the matriculation of 347 outstanding third-year students into the McIntire School of Commerce’s Class of 2018. The entering class represents a diversity of racial and ethnic backgrounds, with representation from across the globe. Sixteen percent of the entering class holds citizenships in countries outside the United States, while 11 percent of the students are non-U.S. citizens. The mean SAT score for all accepted students is 1403, and the average GPA is 3.72. The high quality of the School continues to be reflected in the competitive admissions process, in which 503 UVA students applied and 97 percent of those offered admission accepted.
Alumni

Ninety-eight percent of the undergraduate Class of 2016 indicated they had accepted a position (94 percent), were enrolling in graduate school (3 percent), or were not in the job market (1 percent).

The average annual base salary for the undergraduate Class of 2016 is $71,944; the median annual base salary is $72,500.

McIntire congratulates Dan O’Brien (M.S. in MIT ’16), Associate Vice President for Enterprise Data Services at The Carlyle Group, for having been awarded the 2016 M.S. in MIT Award for Excellence in Leadership and Technology. Recognized as an outstanding student and contributor to others’ learning, O’Brien serves as an exemplar of the M.S. in MIT Program’s aims and values.
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Enrollment
- 1st year class scored in the 96th percentile nationally on MCAT (34.2)
- Mean GPA increased from 3.79 to 3.82
- 100% of SoM students match

School-Specific: Diversity
Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award – 4 years in a row

24% URM (increase from 21% in 2015)

School-Specific: New Leadership Program
New leadership program with Darden incorporates Both UME and BIMS curricula

Faculty Honors & Accomplishments
SOM leaders serve in National leadership roles in LCME, USMLE and ACGME

Strategic Planning
- Goal is no tuition increase through 2021
- No increases for entering classes of 2015, 2016
- Graduate and Public Health Sciences degrees are moving from Arts & Sciences to SOM in 2017

Faculty Recruitment
Strategic Hiring Initiative/Cross-Grounds cluster hires:

SEAS-SOM – Biomedical Data Sciences (1 accepted; 1 in negotiations)
SEAS-SOM: Traumatic Brain Injury (final candidates identified)
CLAS-SOM: Neurosciences (candidates being interviewed)
Rankings
US News ranking of MC as #1 in Virginia

FY16 - $206M total funding

Increase 14% NIH, total funding 15%

School Specific: Pinn Scholars
New! The Pinn Scholars program is designed to support and recognize SOM mid-level faculty and is named in honor of Dr. Vivian Pinn. A graduate of the UVA School of Medicine Class of 1967, Dr. Pinn is a member of the National Academies of Science, a fellow in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and past president of the National Medical Association.

Retention of mid-career investigators- allows recipients to move their research toward novel areas without the need to obtain external funding. Four scholars per year gain $120,000 over 3-year period for the development of new project or new direction in research.
Research
50% increase in grant submissions between 2015 and 2016, the highest productivity rate in last 8 years

$2.3m in research funding during FY 2016, including:

- $454K NIH grant for Jeanne Alhusen (“are disabled women getting the reproductive care they need?”)
- $441K NIH grant for Jeongok Logan (“stress and arterial stiffness”)

Notable Events
100+ attendees at the 3rd annual, SON-hosted Haney Compassionate Care Conference on Differences in End-of-Life Care

Faculty Honors & Accomplishments
38 national academies fellows (including 27 Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing -FAAN), including Ishan Williams’ August induction as a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America.

With Mary Gibson’s election as president of the American Association for the History of Nursing (AAHN), the School has 4 national nursing organization presidents on faculty (also includes ANA president Pam Cipriano, AACN president Clareen Wiencek, and AWHONN president Emily Drake)

Faculty Recruitment
10 new faculty hired in 2016, including 3 “cluster” hires with Curry & Architecture

School-Specific: Hoos Inclusive
12,138 people reached on Facebook during the School’s first-ever #HoosInclusivephoto campaign that brought together faculty, staff and, most importantly, students.

School-Specific: Two New Specialty Tracks
2 new specialty MSN tracks established for Neonatal Nurse Practitioners and Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioners—now accepting applications for fall 2017
School-Specific: Nurses on the Lawn!

5 nursing students living on the Lawn—the most ever

Enrollment

- **70%** increase in RN to BSN enrollment since 2012, helping meet the Institute of Medicine’s ‘80 by 20’ mandate (80 percent of US nurses with a 4-year degree by 2020)

- **40% ethnic and racial diversity** among incoming first year BSN students

- **919** applicants for 76 spots in the BSN class of 2020—our **most competitive year** in school history

Advancement/Major Gifts

>**$454K** raised during Annual Fund (**best year ever**)

**900+** alumni who answered the SON’s first ever live phone call with Dean Dorrie Fontaine. 200 stayed on the phone more than 30 minutes
SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Enrollment
2,780 students served, 63% Virginia residents
Just under 10,000 total registrations, 92% for credit

Strategic Planning
This past year SCPS benefited from the support of the new University Strategic Investment Fund – $600,000 over three years – to hire a subject matter expert to help develop the curriculum and design the learning environment for a Master’s in Professional Studies in Public Safety Administration. That program is expected to launch in 2018.

Advancement/Major Gifts
To engage alumni and build relationships with prospective donors, we have repositioned an SCPS A&P faculty member to develop alumni engagement, outreach, and fundraising strategies.

Faculty Recruitment
In 2016, SCPS secured approval to award rank, and permission to provide promotions, to our salaried full-time and part-time non-tenure faculty. Nearly a quarter of SCPS’ faculty are non-tenure assistant professors, eligible for promotion to non-tenure associate and full professor if they meet the requirements for promotion.

School Specific: Curricular Reform
In 2016 SCPS launched a new certificate program in Health Sciences Management. SCPS also secured approval for an entirely online pathway for our Bachelors of Interdisciplinary Studies and a Guaranteed Admission Agreement with the Virginia Community College System. These will allow students from across the Commonwealth to enroll in BIS to complete their Bachelor’s degree, without relocating from their homes.

In 2015-16 SCPS retired our Personal Enrichment program, non-credit courses for casual learners, offered in a face-to-face format here in Charlottesville. This follows a national trend; many schools of continuing education are finding declining interest in their non-credit general interest courses. Instead, audiences want programs that prepare students for the rapidly changing demands of the workplace. SCPS now focuses on degrees and credit-bearing stackable credentials. SCPS’s two degree programs – BIS and the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences management (BPHM) – will offer geographically neutral tuition pricing beginning in Fall 2017 (BPHM has offered this convenience since it began). This means students anywhere can enroll in our degree programs and pay the same competitive tuition. This promises to expand the audience, enhancing the University’s national reach.