

***REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE***

TO: University Senate

FROM: Dennis N. Assanis, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: May 4, 2015

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***2014-15 Stony Brook Online Learning Development (S-BOLD) Initiative Awards***

The President and Provost, in support of the continuing evolution of educational excellence, have established the Stony Brook Online Learning Development Initiative (S-BOLD), funded initially for four years at a level of \$250,000 per year. This initiative sought new and innovative proposals to develop both online and blended-learning courses and tools that would offer special opportunities for learners at Stony Brook University and beyond. A successful proposal must have had significant curricular impact and advance understanding of effective practices for online learning. In 2014-2015, the initiative gave preference to proposals that addressed time-to-graduation and graduation rates. Foundational courses that lead to degree completion and efforts that increase timely success in such courses were particularly sought. For details of the initiative, please visit the [S-BOLD website](#).

During the first year of the funding cycle (AY 2014-15), the S-BOLD initiative has received 15 Letters of Intent (LOI) from faculty and staff in various disciplines in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS), and the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS). Following the [S-BOLD Letter of Intent Review Process](#), 12 LOIs were selected to submit full proposals in February 2015.

All full proposals submitted in response to this initiative were reviewed by an ad hoc review panel appointed by the Provost with members nominated by the Online Education Advisory Group (OLEAG) and drawn from subject matter faculty experts and institutional leaders and resource experts, the Joint Advisory Committee on OnLine Education (JACOOL), OLEAG, and Chairs/Program Directors. Upon consideration of their recommendations, and after consultation with other senior administrators, the President and Provost selected the proposals that will be funded in this first round of S-BOLD awards. The following six proposals (arranged alphabetically by topical area) were selected for funding:

- [Expansion and Integration of Biology Course Offerings Online](#), Joanne Souza (Biology Online and Undergraduate Biology), Paul Bingham and Vitaly Citovsky (Biochemistry and Cell Biology) – BIO 361/310
- [Online Learning Modules for General Chemistry](#), David Hanson (Chemistry) – CHE 129/131
- [Hybrid Online/Classroom Delivery Model for CHE 132](#), Fernando Raineri (Chemistry) – CHE 132

- [Learning from Engineering Disasters](#), Gary Halada, (Materials Science and Engineering) – ESG 201.
- [Enhancing Introductory Mathematics Courses](#), Scott Sutherland (Mathematics), David Kahn (Mathematics and CESAME) – MAP 103, MAT 123
- [Writers' Online Learning Forum & Information Literacy Environment \(WOLFIE\)](#), Kristina Lucenko (Writing Program), Cynthia Davidson (Writing Program), Darren Chase (Library) – WRT 101/102

With the support of the Center for Teaching and Learning Technology, these six projects will start their implementation phase and be prepared to launch in AY 2016-17. For additional information on the [S-BOLD Full Proposal Review Process](#) and brief descriptions of the funded projects, please visit [S-BOLD Awards Project Descriptions 2014-15](#).

### ***School of Journalism Accredited by the Accrediting Council in Education in Journalism and Mass Communications***

On May 1, 2015, the Accrediting Council in Education in Journalism and Mass Communications voted to grant the School of Journalism full accreditation at its meeting in Phoenix, AZ. The vote was the culmination of a nearly two-year process that began in the spring of 2013. The process included completion of a rigorous self-study in which the school was asked to demonstrate, and document in considerable detail, compliance with nine standards of excellence in areas such as curriculum and instruction, faculty, diversity, assessment, governance, professional service, facilities, scholarship and student services. The Provost's Office reviewed, made amendments to, and approved the self-study document in January 2015. The self-study was then forwarded to the Accrediting Council in preparation for their February 15-17, 2015 site visit. During the visit, members observed classes, interviewed faculty, met with students, toured facilities, gathered the perspective of faculty and administrators outside of the School and met with the President and Provost. Following the visit, the site team submitted a report to the Accrediting Council, which officially recommended full accreditation for the School. In March 2015, the Council's Accreditation Committee unanimously endorsed the site team's recommendation leading to the vote by the full Council last Friday. At the meeting, several members of the Council praised the school for making significant progress in such a short time, and particularly singling out its innovative News Literacy Program. Of the more than 500 Communications and Journalism programs in the nation, 115 have received accreditation. Stony Brook was one of the youngest Journalism programs to ever apply for, and receive, accreditation.

### ***Update on Search for the Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS)***

As announced earlier this spring, the Office of the Provost has initiated a national search for our next Dean of CEAS. The CEAS Dean Search Committee is co-chaired by Joseph Mitchell, SUNY Distinguished Professor and Chair, Applied Mathematics and Statistics and Wendy Tang, Associate Chair, Electrical and Computer Engineering; Associate Provost for Online Education, and is comprised of the following members of our academic community:

- Jennifer Bracero, Assistant Dean, CEAS, Undergraduate Student Office
- Mónica Bugallo, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Morgan DiCarlo, Undergraduate Student

- Michael Dudley, Professor and Chair, Materials Science and Engineering
- David Ferguson, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor and Chair, Technology and Society; Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion
- Molly Frame, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Program Director, Biomedical Engineering
- Robert J. Frey, Research Professor; Director, Program in Quantitative Finance
- Robert Kelly, Associate Chair and Information Systems Program Director, Computer Science
- Sacha Kopp, Dean of College of Arts and Sciences
- Annie Liu, Professor, Computer Science
- Jon Longtin, Professor, Mechanical Engineering
- Kun Ma, Graduate Student
- Rodney Morrison, Associate Provost for Enrollment Management
- Joel Saltz, Inaugural Cherith Professor and Founding Chair, Department of Biomedical Informatics
- Esther Takeuchi, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Materials Science and Engineering and Chemistry; Chief Scientist of Brookhaven National Laboratory's Basic Energy Sciences Directorate
- Harold Walker, Professor and Director, Civil Engineering Program
- Minghua Zhang, Dean of School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences

The search committee is assisted by the executive search firm Russell Reynolds Associates. For additional information on the CEAS Dean search, as well as for search updates, please visit the CEAS Dean search web site at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/ceasdean/index.html>

#### ***Update on Search for the Dean of International Academic Programs and Services (IAPS)***

As announced earlier this spring, the Office of the Provost has initiated a national search for our next Dean of IAPS. The search committee is co-chaired by Charles Taber, Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education and Lisa Benz-Scott, Director of the Program in Public Health, and is comprised of the following members of our academic community:

- Hongshik Ahn, Professor, Applied Mathematics and Statistics
- John Bailyn, Professor, Linguistics
- Eva Carceles-Poveda, Associate Professor, Economics
- David Ferguson, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor and Chair, Technology and Society; Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion
- Richard Gatteau, Associate Provost for Academic Success
- Silvia Ghinassi, Graduate Student
- Paul Gootenberg, SUNY Distinguished Professor of History and Sociology
- Mario *Mignone*, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor and Director of the Center for Italian Studies
- Kristen J. Nyitray, Associate Librarian; Head, Special Collections and University Archives
- Melody Pena, Undergraduate Student
- Adrian Perez-Melgosa, Associate Professor, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature

- Suzanne V. Shane, Associate Chief Counsel, Office of General Counsel
- Eng Kiong Tan, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature & Cultural Studies; Director, Confucius Institute
- Matthew Whelan, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives
- Lee Xippolitos, Dean, School of Nursing

The search committee is assisted by the executive search firm Isaacson Miller. For additional information on the IAPS Dean search, as well as for search updates, please visit the IAPS Dean search web site at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/iapdean/index.html>

### *May 2015 Provost's Lectures*

The Provost's Lecture Series is pleased to host Steve Koonin, Director of New York University's Center for Urban Science and Progress, who will give a talk entitled "Adventures in Urban Informatics." Dr. Koonin began his career as a Professor of Theoretical Physics at the California Institute of Technology, where he later served as Provost. Following Caltech, he joined BP as Chief Scientist, was later appointed Under Secretary for Science with the Department of Energy, and worked for the Institute for Defense Analyses. He has also served on numerous advisory bodies for the DOE, National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense. In this lecture, Koonin will talk about how the Center for Urban Science and Progress is being established at NYU, and will focus on bringing informatics to the study and operation of urban systems. In only a few decades, the world's population will exceed nine billion, 70 percent of whom will live in cities. Enabling those cities to deliver services efficiently and sustainably while keeping citizens safe, prosperous and well-informed will be among this century's most important undertakings. His lecture will touch on ways in which the Center will enrich New York City and contribute to global issues. Taxis, lights, sewers, phones and buildings will all enter into his lecture in novel ways. Koonin's talk will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. in the Simons Center Auditorium, Room 103.

On Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. in the Wang Center Theater, the Provost's Lecture Series will host a talk by Shu Chien entitled "Mechanotransduction in Endothelial Cells in Health and Disease, with Special Reference to microRNA." Shu Chien is University Professor of Bioengineering and Medicine, and Director of the Institute of Engineering in Medicine, at the University of California, San Diego. He is also a Director of Bioengineering at the Institute of California for the UC System. Shu Chien is a world leader in molecular, cellular and integrative studies on bioengineering and physiology in health and disease, with research focuses on mechanotransduction, mechanism of regulation of gene expression, and stem cell bioengineering. He has published more than 500 papers in peer-reviewed journals and edited twelve books. Shu Chien has also received outstanding teacher awards at Columbia University and UCSD. In his lecture, he will discuss how vascular endothelial cells (ECs) play significant roles in regulating circulatory homeostasis in physiological and pathophysiological states. The EC responses to directed mechanical stimuli involve the remodeling of EC structure to minimize alterations in intracellular stress/strain and elicit adaptive changes in EC signaling in the face of sustained stimuli; these cellular events constitute a feedback control mechanism to maintain vascular homeostasis and are athero-protective. Such a feedback mechanism does not operate effectively in regions of complex geometry, where the mechanical stimuli do not have clear directions, thus placing these areas at risk for atherogenesis.

### ***Annual Undergraduate Research, Education and Creative Activities (URECA) Program***

On April 29, 2015, we celebrated the research and creative activities of students working with SBU faculty mentors in all disciplines. The URECA program has been listed for the last several years by the US News & World Report as an academic program that leads to student success. This celebration was a testament to how much research collaboration between our students and faculty has really grown. In 1997, the URECA annual symposium featured 14 student presentations. That year, the university was one of 10 nationwide to receive the RAIRE grant from the NSF in Recognition of Achievement in Integrating Research and Education. This was the beginning of the URECA Celebration tradition, which continues to grow every year. In 2001, there were about 70 posters displayed. This year, we had over 200 posters, involving more than 300 students. The undergraduate students who exhibited posters and projects at the 2015 URECA Celebration represent some of the best students at Stony Brook. Many have received funding support from URECA, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Battelle for work at BNL, the Beckman Foundation, and the National Science Foundation.