End of Semester updates
We are quickly coming to the end of the fall semester. I know this has been another challenging

even while facing many personal challenges that come along with the pandemic.

- A reminder that no tests should be given scheduled during the week immediately preceding the first day of officially scheduled final exams. And no <u>final</u> exams should be administered to students prior to exam periods officially scheduled.
    - We have traditionally called the week before f
      and faculty have recently asked for a new name (that is not so morbid). Any ideas for a new name for this week?! Suggestions are welcome.
- We continue to try to enforce the facemask policy on campus. We posted new signage on the LSC study rooms and are currently deciding whether to close the study rooms for the rest of the semester due to non-compliance. Opinions on this decision are welcome.
- I am sorry to announce that the traditional Provost Christmas Party will not be held this December due to the risks of virus transmission in a crowded indoor setting. We will assess conditions in the early part of the spring semester to see if it is possible to do a late holiday gathering.

Dean Searches
The University has secured the search firm, Hyatt-Fennel, to conduct all three current dean

the
beginning of January. We hope to conclude these two searches by March 2022.

Faculty Searches
We have hired two new faculty for the 2022-2023 academic year. One tenure track position in Operations and Analytics and a faculty specialist in Occupational Therapy.

Student of Color Retention
Based on the feedback that has come out of Faculty Senate discussions in the past, I have asked Nick Truncale and the Retention Committee to prioritize their work on the retention of students of color. Thank you to Nick and the committee for giving this important question special consideration as we understand the reasons for a lower retention rate and work to make changes to support students of color on campus.

- **The University of Scranton**