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Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021 5:07 PM

To: FA-I <FA-I@lists.uccs.edu>

Subject: [FA-I]December President's Report

December President's Report

The **provost search committee** wrapped up its work on November 23, when we met with the chancellor to discuss the candidates after all of them had completed their interviews. Based on the campus feedback, **we were happy with the candidates we brought to campus. All had significant support. The chancellor is in negotiation with one of the candidates.** Fingers crossed.

Speaking of searches, **the Vice Chancellor for DEI search is continuing.** Unfortunately, none of the candidates who came to campus so far ended up being both desired by the campus and also available to accept an offer. Fortunately, the [two candidates](#) from the original pool who are coming next week both look very strong on paper and the committee is enthusiastic about being able to bring them to campus (virtually). I know it's a busy time of year. I know it's been a long semester. I know we are all interviewed out (although, when you think about it, being able to hire is a good thing). I **also know this is an important position.** The campus seems **more committed than I have ever seen to making real, meaningful progress** on diversity, equity and inclusion. **Having someone** who brings new ideas and energy **to help us do that is vital to our success.** Please, if you are able, **attend at least one session for each candidate and provide your feedback.** They are all virtual, which should make it a little easier, I hope.

I hope you will all take a look at **the report from the Teaching Evaluation Task Force** attached to the December agenda (also attached here). Past president David Weiss did a great job of conducting an extended e-mail discussion with the task force and distilling the results into a cogent report that includes a number of recommendations. **Please share your thoughts with your elected representatives.** Provost Klebe reminds us that **annual merit review criteria (or revisions to existing criteria) are due to her in May**, so you may as well become informed. **Faculty evaluation**, as those of you participated in the Professional Rights and Responsibilities survey and discussion may remember, **is primarily the province of faculty, in this case at the unit level. We hope these recommendations will help inform the choices faculty make about the criteria** for this important process.

The **COVID numbers in El Paso County have come down** (from over 400 per hundred thousand to around 250) and stayed there for five weeks. **Numbers on campus are stable and well below that.** This week's testing **did not show a spike in cases on campus post-Thanksgiving** (so far). The health center continues to make **vaccination, including boosters, available on campus.** No one can know yet what omicron (or what I assume will be the eventual arrival of extended cold weather in Colorado Springs) will mean, but **we certainly need to remain prepared to implement the plans that are in place** to increase vaccination verification and wider routine testing of the unvaccinated if the numbers move in that direction.

The chancellor successfully lobbied to **get a second UCCS representative** (Dean Vidler, joining Mary Coussons-Read of Psychology) **on the presidential search committee.** It still feels like we are under-represented, but we can hope bringing that to the regents attention will make them more attentive to what the representatives we do have say. In her report to Faculty Council yesterday, Faculty Senate

President Mary Coussons-Read **encouraged faculty to nominate strong candidates for the position, especially if we can help diversify the pool** in doing so.

Keep an eye out for the FA committee reports as they come out, including my budget committee report on Thursday (after the University Budget Advisory Committee meets).

(Deep breath. Exhale) Two more weeks,



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