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Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 4:28 PM
To: FA-I <FA-I@lists.uccs.edu>
Subject: [FA-I]October President's Report

October President's Report

October 1, 2021

The regents had intended to join us during our September Faculty Assembly meeting **to hear from UCCS faculty what we wanted to see in the next president of the University of Colorado**. They decided that they needed to continue the regent meeting that was scheduled for the same time through lunch and asked if they could re-schedule. We have settled **on Friday, October 8, at 2:20-3:00 pm on Zoom**. The Faculty Representative Assembly meeting ends at 2, which will allow members to take a break and return to offices before logging on with the regents. **All Faculty Assembly members** (that means you if you are reading this) **are invited to join us**. The Zoom link is: <https://uccs-edu.zoom.us/j/95660859712>

Speaking of our Faculty Representative Assembly meeting on October 8, our main item of business will be a **discussion of the work of the Mitigating the Effects of COVID-19 on Faculty Task Force**. Thanks to the **314 (out of 593 total members) of you who completed the survey** they prepared. The task force is hard at work analyzing the survey and determining what to focus on in our discussion. We hope to **distribute a description of that discussion on Wednesday, October 6**. If you have any reactions to that document, I hope you will **communicate them to your elected representatives**.

A more comprehensive Faculty Assembly Committee on the Budget report will be forthcoming, but I wanted to report here **the discussion we had at UBAC about the budget for this year**. **We came within 150 SCH of hitting our enrollment target for fall 2021**. Because we have more out-of-state students than we had dared to hope for, **we are on track to exceed our budget target (by a whopping .8%)**. That means **no need for cuts, no furloughs** and the ability to do the things we had planned for. However, **we have not met the targets from last June to allow for base salary increases** to be implemented in January. Encouragingly, **the chancellor, the president and the regents are all looking for ways to give some sort of salary increase** for the coming year. It is possible **that could take the form of a one-time bonus**, like the one we received in July.

We are up to **76% of students having attested** (with 99% of employees having done so!). The percentage of **students reporting being vaccinated remains at a steady 80%** (91% for employees). The **student attestation numbers will continue to rise as the registrar's office reminds them that they can't register for spring until they complete their attestation**. Registration begins **mid-October**, so we should see very close to full attestation by my next report. Comparatively speaking, an 80% vaccination rate is very high, but **I don't think any of us want to continue to be in classrooms where we think 20% of the students are unvaccinated**. I continue to encourage the campus to be **proactive in promoting vaccination to students and I won't stop trying**.

In terms of infections, **we still have new reports of infected persons on campus and in classes**. We are **ramping up our contact tracing capacity**. Something that would help is to have more attendance tracking, especially by seating, in classrooms. **If you can implement seating charts without too much disruption, that would be helpful**. Surveillance testing of students is also being increased. Speaking of testing, **as educators you can get free rapid test kits mailed to you by the state by visiting** <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfoDyOILoNjvMxnrw3E4dDMZvPaeu0SukesUCW-jrg5InnOQ/viewform>. Be sure to request them before you need them because there is a delay in their arrival.

Our next **Faculty Assembly survey, on Faculty Rights & Responsibilities, will open on October 11**, so keep an eye out for that. The next day, the CU system will launch a **Campus Culture and Workplace Survey** (see <https://ir.uccs.edu/campus-workplace-climate-survey> for more information). A high response rate will make the results more useful and more likely to result in changes people want to see, so I hope you will complete it, too.

Take care,



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