

From: faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu <faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu> on behalf of UCCS Announcements Do Not Reply <faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu>

Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 1:36 PM

To: faculty-l <faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu>

Subject: [faculty-l] Instruction modes for Spring 22, Vaccine news, Snow day news, FA Pres Report

Message from:

David Weiss - dweiss@uccs.edu

Faculty Assembly President's Report January 2021

1. **What will teaching look like on campus this coming fall?**- We're expecting that **social distancing, face coverings and classroom limitations will still be in place this fall.** I would encourage you to consider using the hyflex option of courses as a possibility which would save a classroom for you if it turns out that's feasible for you, if you think that's appropriate. Remember that the current instruction modes are here: <https://registrar.uccs.edu/instruction-modes-course-delivery-options>

The Faculty assembly executive committee is **recommending that the remote asynchronous mode of instruction no longer be available starting spring 22**, but keep the rest of our current modes. Current remote asynchronous courses are recommended to be revised to be online courses as soon as possible, ideally for this fall as well.

2. **Vaccine Distribution**-I was told recently that the governor clarified that educators being in category 1B2 and 1B3 for vaccines means only K-12 educators, not higher ed. I was also told that university presidents are writing letters to the governor asking him to reconsider. I've also heard that UCCS is asking to be distribution site for the vaccine, but no word on whether that will happen or not.

I've also heard it's unlikely that we will have a requirement that anyone be vaccinated for COVID 19 before coming to campus.

3. **Snow days**- Just a reminder that the campus policy is that if there is a snow day, all classes are cancelled including remote courses during the time the campus is closed.
4. **Committee to consider Faculty Professional Rights and Responsibilities (PRR)** document is being assembled. I would like representatives from all of our colleges as well as faculty assembly women's committee, minority affairs committee, Pride, and any other interested groups to consider serving on this committee this spring. Please see the document already written by faculty at Boulder attached, and please let me know if you are interested in serving on this committee to revise that document for UCCS. The final document would be reviewed by EPUS.
5. **Faculty Assembly and Regents**- Alex Baker from the Staff Association and I are meeting with Regent Ilana Dubin-Spiegel Feb 24th to chat about where the Regents can further support us. I'm going to suggest that Regent Spiegel, and any other Regents who would like to come, be invited to an upcoming faculty assembly meeting. These meetings are currently on Teams.
6. **Retired faculty committee**- There has been discussion of reforming a retired faculty committee, so please let me know if you would like to be part of that. My thought is that this would give those faculty more of a seat at the table regarding benefits.

7. **Online initiative-** The campus faculty assembly committee has faculty working group for this initiative, and Dean Markel is the conduit between the faculty assembly committee, the campus, and Denver's Office of Digital Education (ODE). Dave Anderson leads our faculty assembly committee with the goal of considering which programs to submit to the systemwide initiative. This initiative is still in flux, and each campus is working somewhat independently here. I understand that we're starting to work on agreements now between the ODE and the campus.
8. **Committee on research-** This committee was approved in December as well as its bylaws to be added as a regular standing committee for faculty assembly. Glen Whitehead can probably field questions here. There will also be an advisory committee.
9. **Student Government meetings-** I'm meeting with leadership from student government monthly to update them on anything of their interest that we're working on. Note to please encourage your students to participate in student government elections.
10. **Spring break weeks-** Student government is receiving many complaints regarding faculty who are ignoring our new spring breaks. Please be cognizant that our schedule is a bit different than normal years for spring break.
11. **NTTF committee motion to change it's name-** Here's the motion that faculty assembly executive committee is putting forth:

Motion 1: FRA moves that the faculty categorical designation Non-Tenure Track Faculty (NTTF) be changed in all campus organizations and documents to Instructional, Research, and Clinical (IRC) faculty.

12. **Faculty Staff Health Assessment-** A survey regarding health of the faculty has been funded by the Chancellor's office and should be coming your way soon. This might tie in with funds from the President's office. I am hoping that we can capitalize on whatever we find with things that are actionable. This is in cooperation with the campus staff association, and I meet with Alex Baker from the staff association as well as Venkat monthly to see how we can all work together.
13. **Exec committee chairs-** Joe Craig will step in for Henriikka Weir as she goes on sabbatical, and help Lynn Gates to chair Personnel and Benefits for spring 21, and Andrea Hutchins is returning as chair for EPUS for spring 21, relieving Norah Mazel in that role who was interim while she was on sabbatical.
14. **Sick Leave-** We started discussing a new sick leave policy document that the system is developing with P&B through Joe Craig.
15. **Student Evals (FCQs) and co-instructor FCQs-** Last semester we noted that in some cases students were confused regarding who their actual professor was, and chose faculty who taught the course in a previous semester to write student evals about. We're discussing how to improve the FCQ distribution for this spring and welcome suggestions and reports of issues from the fall.

Whew, I'm tired just reading this list! Needless to say, we haven't been on vacation since we last met as faculty assembly!

Best, David J. Weiss
Faculty Assembly President (2020-2021)