

**From:** UCCS Faculty Assembly List <FA-I@lists.uccs.edu> on behalf of David Moon cmoon@uccs.edu <FA-I@lists.uccs.edu>

**Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2022 5:57 PM

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

**Subject:** [FA-I]May President's Report in April

**My goal this year as president of the Faculty Assembly was to remind faculty and senior administrators** of what I believe is a simple truth, **that shared governance is shared responsibility.** In addition to our primary responsibility for the curriculum and academic standards, **the faculty as a whole, the faculty assembly, have not just the right but the responsibility of deeply engaging with the broader decision-making of the campus.** That means learning enough to give informed input about the variety of issues that face UCCS. **It means having the collective self-discipline to make that input constructive,** to put forward well-considered positions that will plausibly improve the institution if adopted. **It also means doing our best to make decisions we didn't agree with work** to the best of our ability. **It means advocating to bring issues forward we, collectively, believe are not being given sufficient attention.** It means tempering our advocacy for our members with an understanding of the welfare of our students, our staff and our community. That's a lot of responsibility. **That's why we have governance at the department and college levels, a faculty representative assembly, committees organized around our responsibilities, and an executive committee** to focus on the "big picture."

**I hope you will all support Minette as she takes the next steps to improve the vitality of those structures.** I believe that one of the keys to fulfilling our responsibilities is to attend to the health of the machinery of governance at each of those levels.

**The shared responsibility for shared governance also has profound implications for the senior administrative leadership** of the campus. **Even in the areas where faculty have primacy, the campus leadership should be engaged and supportive.** More than that, though, **they have a responsibility to treat faculty governance as partners.** That means more than transparency about what decisions have been made and the reasons for them. **It means, whenever circumstances allow, consultation with faculty governance in as extensive a way as possible prior to decisions being finalized.** It means **sharing projected future conditions and actively soliciting faculty governance advice for how to respond.** Broad information sharing and communication to the faculty as a whole is important and helpful. **Leaning on the established representative structure of faculty governance to help guide the institution is even more important.**

**The cabinet is being re-made as we speak. I hope you will support Minette,** the executive committee and the representative assembly **in establishing the kinds of relationships with our new provost and chief financial officer (interim and permanent) that produce the kind of collaboration and common purpose that are hallmarks of healthy shared governance.** I also hope you will be especially **supportive of Minette when there are the inevitable moments of, shall we say, creative tension over the best way forward.** It takes personal resolve to continue to represent the faculty majority opinion in the face of strong differing opinions, and a different kind of resolve to figure out a way forward when the faculty opinion will not fully prevail. **I know Minette will do us proud in those relatively rare moments, but she will need to know we collectively have her back.**

**I want to thank everyone who has contributed to making faculty governance work at UCCS this year. I hope that means all of you,** whether your contribution was in department meetings, a college level committee, or on one of the many task forces and committees at the campus level where you represented the faculty assembly. I especially thank those who took the time to lift me up with a kind word about these reports, those who brought me up short with a justifiable critique of what I had said, and all of those who read them with whatever degree of approval. **I want to thank the members and chairs of the many faculty assembly committees** that made specific and impactful contributions to making UCCS a better place this year. **I want to thank those chairs in their role as members of the**

**faculty representative assembly, as well as all those elected by their college peers to that body. I specifically thank Andrea Hutchins, Lynn Gates, and Henriikka Weir for their extra service on the Faculty Executive Committee. Norah Mazel agreed to serve as secretary this year because I wanted someone who could keep up with the flurry of activity I had in mind without batting an eyelid. Thank you, Norah. To my co-conspirators, David Weiss and Minette Church, I can only say that I hope all of you reading this will give them full credit for what faculty assembly accomplished this year and none of the blame for my missteps.**

A special recognition to **my shared governance colleagues, Sarah Long of Staff Council and Emily Gregory of the Student Government Association.** I think we put the shared in shared governance (especially on the provost search committee), for which I am grateful to you both.

Finally, I think **we all owe a debt of gratitude to Kelli Klebe,** who stepped up to take on the particularly challenging role of interim provost. **I knew you would be successful. As it turns out, you have been amazing.** Thank you.

See you at the representative faculty assembly on May 6, where we will hear **a budget update, a report and discussion on the Professional Rights and Responsibilities document** that is nearing completion and consider **motions to update the names and bylaws of two campus committees,** now called **the Faculty Equity and Inclusion Committee** (previously FMAC) and **the Faculty Assembly Teaching Committee** (formerly the Teaching with Technology Committee). **I will see you again at commencement on May13,** no matter which ceremony you attend.

**Keep an eye out for the Faculty Assembly Budget Committee report once I nail down a few more details.**

Best,



C. David Moon

he/him/his

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