

From: UCCS Faculty Assembly List <FA-I@lists.uccs.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 8, 2022 2:45 PM
To: FA-I <FA-I@lists.uccs.edu>
Subject: [FA-I]President's Report

Hello all, and welcome to the semester and the first FA President's Report for 2022.

MEETING with the Chancellor:

The President of Staff Assembly, Missy Sernatinger, and I had a short but positive first **meeting with the Chancellor** where we focused on **common staff and faculty issues around service load, burnout, and retention**. We began a productive conversation with suggestions and ideas that I'm sure we will revisit.

In **enrollment news**, the target for this fall was to be only 1.8% down in enrollment or better. We began the semester 4% down (calculated as compared to same time last year) and by our meeting with the Chancellor (Aug 30) we were 3.7% down. So a tick in the right direction, but we certainly aren't where we would like to be. For an easy calculation, each percentage point translates roughly to \$1mill in budget. On a related note, I hope people found time to stream the candidate forums for **the new Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management** and give feedback.

We (Missy and I) were also both curious about when a search might happen for a **new Director of Institutional Research**. The answer is that the Provost's Office will be putting together a search committee for that position and they put faculty governance in the loop to make sure there is faculty governance representation. Stay tuned. We need data from IR to inform several of our upcoming discussions in FRA. Who we hire to organize, present, and help analyze our data is critical.

MEETING with the Provost:

Speaking of **representation on search committees for administrative positions** (several in the works), I had my first meeting with our new Provost, Nancy Marchand-Martella and we are both committed to productive, collaborative, and open communications. The Provost's Office has been working with us already on representation in searches for faculty governance, and particularly IRC representation, recently making sure that IRC has representation on the **search for a new AVC (Assistant Vice Chancellor) of Faculty Affairs** (thank you Laura!). (You may remember that a robust Office of Faculty Affairs was suggested by the PRR task force last year.)

we are also working on governance representation on the search for the **new AVC of HR**, and any other searches on such positions that affect faculty – which is virtually all of them.

MEETING with the Chancellor and Cabinet re: Covid and Monkey Pox

I was invited to this meeting which was in early August, before the semester started. I'm going to refer you to AVC Stephanie Hanenberg's comprehensive email to campus on August 16 – subject **UCCS Fall Healthcare Update**. Details for this fall on campus are clearly laid out. Apart from that, I will mention that there is a national conversation about susceptibility to Covid, equity, and disabilities services and policies on campuses nationwide – for faculty and students - that I think might bear watching. Of course no two approaches are alike.

SEARCH for AVC for Campus Planning & Facilities Management

I've been serving on the **Facilities Mater Plan Steering Committee** and would encourage everyone to see the candidates as they come to campus and give feedback. The **AVC for Campus & Facilities**

Management will provide campus vision in terms of space and place to mesh the Facilities Strategic Plan and the UCCS 2030 Strategic Plan. Whomever we hire will have a large influence on what this campus will look like in future. Check your email for the first candidate's CV - Chris Coulter was on campus last week.

FRA MEETING PRIORITIES for this year (so far) – NEW BUSINESS:

Last year we changed the format of meetings to make room in the agenda for discussion and deliberation of large and pressing issues. Faculty Assembly's activities last year, including all the surveys you so patiently responded to (thank you!), have set us up for some potentially productive meetings this year. Here are some things we plan to discuss (in addition to time-sensitive things that will inevitably arise). These discussions should clarify the will of faculty towards ongoing policy development and revisions and may result in motions or resolutions expressing that will.

Sept 9: IRC

Following an IRC committee report on where we are with IRC promotion and multi-year contract policies, under New Business we will discuss 1) IRC morale and retention, and 2) IRC representation within FA and in other campus roles

Oct 14: Research Faculty Task Force Report

Discuss steps FA might take to help move forward on the recommendations and options for action provided in this report from May of last year. Specifically, how we will move to a 2/2 teaching load for research-active faculty campus-wide, per our 2030 strategic plan and faculty will as expressed by survey results from last year.

Nov: Professional Rights and Responsibilities (PRR) Task Force roll out

Discuss the recommendations put forth by the task force in their spring executive summary and draft document. David Weiss is also asking FA committee chairs for nominees to sit on a policy team to look at the PRR document and determine next steps in policy development.

Dec: Task Force reports upcoming

Discuss updates to the Covid Task Force recommendation and progress - with participation of the FA DEI committees.

Feb: Lecturers

Lecturers currently have no representation in any campus governance group. Yet there are several issues around course loads and lecturer pay that need addressing across campus.

March: ? Service

I suspect discussions of service will arise as part of several prior months' discussions that involve aspects of workloads. Nevertheless, I think that a focused discussion of how we value and compensate (or not) service, how we can do better to address how overwhelmed people are feeling, and how it affects retention and quality of life is in order.

At one or two points we may ask the **CREST Team and Vice Chancellor Rame Hanna** to come and present on their initiatives as they may intersect or work in parallel with those we'll be discussing, to keep ideas flowing and lines of communication open.

Thanks to anyone who made it to this point! 😊

Best,

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