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Sent:Friday, September 4, 2020 3:32 PM
To:faculty-l <faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu>
Subject:[faculty-l] Faculty Assembly Vice President's Report for September

Message from:
David Moon - cmoon@uccs.edu

Apparently the Faculty Constitution designates the President-Elect as the Vice President, so that's how I'll title these reports.

Back last fall (you know, the before-times) when David Weiss contacted me to see if I was interested in running for this office, he asked me what I would want to do in office. Things are different now, of course, but my answer hasn't fundamentally changed: Make the faculty voice matter. I didn't mean by this that any UCCS administration had ever intentionally ignored faculty or that faculty hadn't had leaders who had done especially good jobs of pursuing faculty interests. What I meant was that faculty voices were heard, but that UCCS had not, through the years, had a faculty assembly that spoke authoritatively for the faculty as a whole. There's a lot to do to make that real and permanent, but David has already taken steps in that direction by making appointments to committees to represent not just themselves as individual faculty, but the faculty as a whole. Administrators, for good reason, have been happy to have that happen. David Weiss and I expect to spend the next two years, with Mary Coussons-Read's help and support this year, working toward the goal of better connecting faculty assembly to faculty across campus and making sure that what we learn impacts what the campus decides. To my mind, the current cascade of crises should accelerate, not stall, our efforts.

One of the challenges of representing the faculty is selecting representatives who can give voice to what faculty think. My main job this year as vice president is to oversee the election process. I'm not sure what changes, if any, faculty representative assembly may want to make to that process, but I will be asking them. I don't know whether the actual election process is a key to making sure the faculty representative assembly is truly representative (in every sense) or if there might be other ways more suited to the halls of academe, but I do know that we are rightly concerned when a country claims to be a democracy, but only has one person on the ballot for each office. I don't know what we will decide, but regardless of whether we make changes to the elections, I hope you will consider participating as a candidate because you want to be part of making the faculty voice matter.

Hoping this weekend gives each of you a moment to catch your breath,

David