



University of Colorado
Colorado Springs

October 2015

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to those who came to the September Conversations at Clyde's! The next one will be October 26th from 4-6, so please announce it in your colleges and come out and visit. It's an opportunity for an informal gathering to meet faculty from across campus.

A lot has been happening already this semester!

1. Don't forget about the Faculty Dependent Scholarship application deadline: Nov. 1, 2015. The link is below and is also on the faculty assembly website.

<http://www.uccs.edu/facassembly/faculty-dependents-scholarship-program-application.html>

2. Did you know that there is a "Faculty Housing Assistance Program"? Faculty from all campuses are eligible but apparently it is only widely used by Boulder Faculty. Here's info:

<http://www.cu.edu/treasurer/faculty-housing-assistance-program-0>

3. I want to STRONGLY encourage all faculty to make an appointment with one of the TIAA-CREF financial advisors. **SOME FUNDS TRANSFERS WILL INVOLVE A FEE AFTER OCTOBER 15th!** Apparently, the face-to-face meetings fill up very quickly, but don't hesitate to do one by phone. I ended up doing that and it was a great experience. Depending on what funds you were in before and how they were mapped over to the new funds, you may be very unbalanced with a large percentage in only one fund. The advisor will ask questions to gauge your risk preferences and can suggest better funds distribution. Based on when you think you might retire and your current contributions, the advisor can run simulations that can tell you whether you are on track for retirement. They can do this with your current funds distribution and their suggested distribution. Get info here:

<http://www.cu.edu/employee-services/retirement-vendor-transition>

From this site:

"Schedule a one-on-one financial consultation with TIAA-CREF. Download our [1-on-1 Financial Consultation Preparation Guide](#), and set up a session with a TIAA-CREF financial consultant to discuss how the transition impacted your investments, the new investment options or for a retirement checkup. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-732-8353, or [sign up online](#). You may also view a [calendar of upcoming on-campus consultations](#)."

4. The new Finance and HR system upgrade will be going live in early November. One key component of interest to faculty is that there will be a grants management system/sponsored programs application. Also, CU Careers will be replacing Jobs at CU,

so if you are involved with any hiring processes, be sure to watch for information about the transition.

5. Several system level committees have vacancies for UCCS that need to be filled. These committees meet in Denver, but members can generally participate remotely. When you travel to Denver, mileage and parking are reimbursed. I need some help

- a) The Ethnic and Minority Affairs Committee wants more faculty members! Only one of our three have been attending, so the others have been removed from the roster, consistent with their bylaws. FMAC, please recommend two faculty members to serve on this important system committee. They meet every first Friday from 9-11 in Denver.
- b) The GLBTI committee has no representation from UCCS. None of our three representatives participated at all last year. PRIDE, we need three faculty members willing to serve on this important system committee. They meet every 4th Friday from 2-3 in Denver.
- c) The system Women's committee also has one vacant spot. They meet every 3rd Friday from 9-11 in Denver. Our own Leann Morgan is chair, but it would be great to have full representation from UCCS!

Status of on-going initiatives:

1. Bylaws: Committees should review their bylaws to ensure they are consistent with our FA bylaws. Also, check the faculty assembly website to ensure that your current bylaws are included: <http://www.uccs.edu/facassembly/bylaws.html>. Please let me know if/when you have done this.

2. Communication: Just a reminder that we want two-way communication -- between us, as a representative body, and the full faculty assembly. Representatives need to be communicating back to their college and getting feedback as needed. Have you checked into whether you have an e-mail list set up within your college to be able to easily send an email to the college faculty as a group? Do it!!

3. Policies: A key initial step is to find out what written policies the colleges and departments actually have. We realize that the specifics of policies are college-level decisions, but it is important that important practices be documented. This is about increasing transparency and protection everyone.

I hope to see you and your colleagues at Conversations at Clyde's on October 26th!

Sincerely,

Monique L. French, PhD
Associate Professor
Faculty Representative Assembly President, 2015-2016