UFC Meeting Notes, 11 September 2012, Room 28, William St. Mansion (aka “Garage Mahal”)

Members Present: Teresa Kennedy (chair), Courtney Clayton (vice-chair), Angela Pitts, Debra Steckler, Debra Schleef, Jo Tyler, Larry Penwell, Steven Greenlaw, Stephen Davies (arrived at 16h14) and Dan Hubbard (secretary)

Visitors Present: Mary Gendernalik-Cooper, John Morello, Richard Finkelstein, Lynne Richardson (arrived at 17h24) and Ian Newbould

Chair Kennedy gavelled the meeting to order at 16h02.

1. Unanimous approval was given to the August meeting minutes.
2. Dean Finkelstein of the CAS reported on several items:
   a. Colloquium presentation
   b. Revamped webpages
   c. Proposed new programs, which the dean states are “in line with our mission” include:
      i. The Masters in GIS is to be presented to the CAS Curriculum Committee on 12 September 2012, based on a returned question from the University Curriculum Committee.
      ii. The B.S. in Nursing, a completion program, is still in the planning stages. While an estimated demand in excess of 500 is expected, there is to be a follow-up and “Request for proposal” from a consultant. There might be possible funding support for design and maintenance of such a program from area hospitals. No specific CAS departments are yet involved.
   d. Five of the six faculty hires made last year were male.
   e. Debra Steckler asked “What if men are a minority in a particular discipline?” The Dean chose not to address the question.
   f. Dan Hubbard noted that several COB faculty members had informed him that they felt that they had been “disinvited” from the Colloquium and that the speaker’s remarks were perceived as denigrating business studies. The Dean insisted that COB members had not been disinvited, and that the speaker’s remarks were not perceived as denigrating business studies.
3. Associate Provost Morello requested that announcement of the University Curriculum Committee website be made by either the UFC or the chair of the UCC.
4. Dean Gendernalik-Cooper of the COE reported that the interdisciplinary STEM major would target those who seek elementary school teacher training, and that the reaccreditation visit would occur from 11 to 14 November 2012.
5. Interim Provost Newbould stated that a meeting concerning the QEP had taken place earlier in the day and that a pilot project in five FSEM sections using on-line learning modules would take place in Spring Semester 2013. These modules were to involve SI, WI and library skills.
   a. Angela Pitts asked whether DTLT were involved in the module development, to which the Interim Provost responded affirmatively.
b. Steven Greenlaw inquired whether the modules were to be limited to FSEMs, to which Associate Provost Morello responded affirmatively.

6. Chair Kennedy first reminded the UFC of important upcoming dates. She then disclosed the membership of the Provost Search Committee to be chaired by University President Richard Hurley. (Committee members are: Ranjit Singh, Andrew Dolby, Debra Steckler, Chris Garcia, Leigh Frackelton, Jo Tyler, Courtney Clayton, Salvatore Meringolo, Rita Dunston, Leah Cox and Sean Simons)

7. The motion for the University Academic Affairs Committee was tabled until the next UFC meeting.

8. Angela Pitts asked about the 20 page limit described in the WI Committee meeting held 20 February 2012. Because these minutes were received after the April UFC meeting, the current WI Committee will review them.

9. The following “Action Items” were delineated by Chair Kennedy:
   a. CAS Senate operations as compared to those of the COE and COB. Various possibilities of streamlining in order to most effectively use faculty service time. Current operations were described as “disconcerting” by Chair Kennedy. Angela Pitts stated that there should be an opportunity for administrators to respond to structural changes instituted this past summer.
   b. Admissions and Recruiting
   c. Diversity Issues and Support
   d. Policy on Summer School and financial issues. Interim Provost Newbould spoke up at this point and stated “some courses lose money, but more importantly, there needs to be a systematic plan to teach what students need and want. We’ll be putting something in place which will deal with this.”
   e. Academic Audits need to be performed. “We need to create our own accountability.”

10. Angela Pitts added the importance of discussion concerning the Undergraduate Research Forum.

11. Steven Greenlaw disclosed that on-line course authorization had received unanimous committee approval.

12. Interim Provost Newbould introduced the new Interim Associate Provost for Admissions and Financial Aid, Carol Descak. Stating that “my motto is proactive,” she informed the UFC that Mary Washington’s operations are ten to fifteen years behind the times, and that “we’re sort of putting band-aids on things right now.” She further opined that Admissions and Financial Aid needed to be “married” and that the web-site needs an overhaul. When Jo Tyler noted that there was a decline in non-traditional students, Ms. Descak stated that this was happening nationwide, and that “we need to toot that.”

13. Interim Provost Newbould stated that the university would be “resurrecting an adult completion program.”

14. Dean Lynne Richardson of the COB claimed that one student had told her that recruiting could be improved by “having women walking around in bikinis.” She further recommended “purchasing more male names.” Debra Steckler recommended the use of the Athletics Department in additional recruitment efforts. Interim Provost Newbould declared that e-mail
was too slow a means of communication, and that text and such social media as Facebook needed to be employed.

The meeting was adjourned at 17h51, with the next scheduled meeting to be held, Tuesday, 9 October 2012 at 16h, with the site to be determined later.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Hubbard, Secretary