Update on Posting of Publications
In keeping with the recommendations passed by UFC last Spring, the Deans are presently developing the lists of last year’s conference presentations and publications supported with UMW funds (Recommendation #2) and all publications that appeared last year (Recommendation #3). These will be posted with password protection on the Provost’s web page as soon as possible, no later than mid-October. A notice will go out when they are available.

Recommendation #4, which seeks to make published work available through an archive maintained by the library, is also in development. Because we do not presently have an especially robust tool for cataloguing and archiving this work, we will develop a system that we expect will serve effectively until a better digital archiving tool becomes available.

As a reminder, Recommendation #1, which called a publication workshop for all new faculty, has been scheduled for October 19 at 4:00 PM (Simpson Library 225).

University Librarian Rosemary Arneson continues to work on an analysis of faculty publications over the past five years (2009-2014), as requested by the academic leadership. Once completed, I will report on the results at an upcoming fall 2015 UFC meeting.

Report to the BOV
During the Academic Affairs section of the BOV meeting, I presented further information on our continuing discussions of the strategic plan. The BOV reviewed changes already made to the draft plan (also shared with the faculty before the two recent forums), as well as a new “Preface” to the plan, developed in response to previous comments from BOV members (to be shared with the next draft to be released). The Strategic Planning Task Force will meet in late September/early October to discuss further revision based on the most recent forums and the September discussion with the Board. A final draft will then be released, around mid-October, soliciting further written input from members of the campus community. We anticipate bringing a final draft of the plan to the BOV for approval at the Board’s November 19-20 meeting.

The proposed waiver of the GMAT for MBA applicants with at least five-years prior work experience or a completed certification or advanced degree was briefly discussed. This item will work its way through the governance process (UAAC and UFC) before returning to the BOV for approval. I noted my hope that it would come back to the BOV at the Board’s November meeting, pending UAAC and UFC approval.
During the Provost’s Update, I reported on preliminary retention data. This data is very preliminary, since we don’t actually capture the data we report until the census is taken, typically in early November. That said, preliminary data does suggest improvement in freshman-to-sophomore retention, as well as in sophomore-to-junior and junior-to-senior retention. The improvement is most pronounced among the sophomore-to-junior group, but it shows an increase of about two percentage points for rising sophomore and seniors as well. Though preliminary and likely to change a bit, these results are very encouraging.

I briefly reviewed the continuing discussion of the Alternative Course Model. I will likely make a more detailed presentation on this topic at the November BOV meeting, and will work with Anand Rao, UFC Chair, to develop that presentation.

I commented briefly on the governance transition in UFC (so far, so good!) and on administrative reorganization in the College of Education (elimination of departments and department chairs, establishment of an Associate Dean modeled on the Associate Dean position in the other two colleges, and establishment of three program directors organized to group together similar academic programs).

Finally, in keeping with a prior request, I updated the BOV on enrollment in new programs: Nursing recruited 15 new students this fall, to bring the total in the RN→BSN to about 50, along with an additional 12-15 new students in the 1-2-1 program (offered in conjunction with Germanna CC). The MSGA brought in 8 new students, to bring the total in that program to 21. The new Communication and Digital Studies major now has, at the time of my last query, 32 declared majors (I believe that figure combines BA and BLS students).

**Budget Allocations, FY 2016 and FY 2017**

I wanted to share a few highlights from the present and upcoming budget years.

First, Faculty Supplemental Grants were redistributed across the three colleges. These funds are now allocated annually, on the basis of full-time faculty headcount in each college. This has eliminated any inequity associated with funds that rolled into the Supplemental budget lines of COB and COE from the old CGPS. Actual awards are still made by the Deans, but the total pool made available to each College will now proportionately reflect the number of faculty serving in the College (both tenure-track and RTA).

Second, I am happy to report that two new faculty lines were authorized for searches this year: one replacing a line lost last year because of budget cuts (in Spanish) and another to support the MS in Geospatial Analysis.

In addition, the Office of the Provost provided funding to support the additional 1% salary pool raise for full-time continuing faculty, bringing the amount of the raise up from about $1,335 to $2,000. Most of the cost of that support was identified in the
current budget year, though some additional funding will be required in FY 2017 as well (because of the need to annualize salaries in July and August of the new fiscal year). Faculty and staff salaries continue to be our highest priority, as reflected in materials provided to SCHEV and to state agencies in the current budget cycle.

One of the challenges we will face in the coming academic year will be ensuring that sufficient funds are available to support adjunct faculty expenses. The problem has grown especially acute in CAS, which offers the vast majority of adjunct-taught courses. We have been able to offer the courses we need, and we don’t anticipate any change in that regard, but we have too often relied on one-time funds from the Provost budget to “fill in,” which creates challenges for the CAS chairs and deans as they plan their schedules. We will continue to work to address this problem, though it may take a few years to phase in a long-term solution, especially given other high-priority budget needs.