**UFC Special Meeting**

**October 27, 2020**

**4:00-5:20 PM**

**Present:** J. Davis, M. Rotter, A. Dolby, A. Rao, K. Machande, R. Graefe-Anderson, L. Lehman, S. Sumner, L. Mentore, G. Richards, M. Pickham, G. Stull, D. Delaney, R.Wells, M. Wells, A. Chichester, J. Broome, C. Clayton, M. Liss, V. McCall, J. Romero, B. Epps, T. Coffman, M. Och, K. Slunt, K. Majid, C. Finlayson, J. Barry, M. Ray, S. Dasgupta, J. Huffman, N. Crowder, J. Lee, L. Martin, M.B. Matthews, S. Sarkar, Kyree Ford (student representative)

**Location:** Remote, over Zoom. The recording and the survey results will be posted in the password-protected video archive.

**1) Call to Order**

Andrew called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

**2) Items for discussion**

Andrew began by sharing the recent history of how the provost position opened this year. President Paino sought the input of various groups, and because of the feedback during the UFC meeting, we called this special meeting to get more faculty input on the search. We plan to make a recommendation to the president as a result of this special meeting.

The options are to continue the status quo or reconsider a different kind of structure that doesn’t involve a long-term provost.

He noted that making organizational changes would be a long process, and any discussions about restructuring would not be completed today.

Question: What is the goal of this meeting?

Answer: We do need to provide a recommendation to the president sooner rather than later. Nina will continue to serve as provost throughout the spring. If we will weigh in, now is the opportunity to do so.

Question: Is there a deadline?

Answer: No, the president has not given a date. There have been some concerns about conducting a national search during a pandemic, and Troy is willing to hold off on making a decision, but in the event of a national search we should probably move quickly.

Comment: Let’s give feedback on whether it’s a national search or not and only talk about restructuring if there is time.

Response: Yes, that is a reasonable outcome of this meeting.

Comment: The sense of urgency came from some who felt that the full faculty had not had the chance to participate in the process. Faculty wanted to have more participation in the discussion.

(Comments in the chat supported the idea that making any determinations about reorganization today would be premature).

Andrew asked if we would recommend a national search.

Comment: Issues about travel and getting to know a candidate would complicate a national search.

Comment: It is not reflected in the survey results to start a national search. (several agreed with this point)

Comment: Conducting a search for an internal interim seems like the only way forward.

Comment: The survey does suggest that people would like to continue the discussion about restructuring, so we should be sure that we do that.

Comment: Because we are contracting in terms of size, it makes sense to discuss restructuring at this time.

Comment: UFC should prioritize which questions should be settled when and be a partner to the president; they can involve the faculty as a larger group during this process.

Comment: we could consider an internal search for a two-year interim? This could allow us to recover from this year and its particular challenges.

Comments (in chat): Agreed, but the longer we wait on the provost, the longer we postpone big things (reaccreditation and strategic planning) .

We constructed motions and voted on them; these are listed at the end of the minutes.

3) Faculty are encouraged to attend the December UFC meeting.

4) The meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Submitted by Janine Davis

**Motions**

**Motion 1:** The UFC recommends that we do not conduct a national search for the provost position for the 2021-2022 academic year.

**Rationale:** Conducting a job search during a pandemic will be too challenging.

The motion passed with no abstentions.

**Motion 2:** The UFC recommends that the president wait to determine a process for hiring an interim provost until after the December 2020 UFC meeting.

**Rationale:** The UFC would like to obtain more constituent input about the process during this time.

The motion passed with no abstentions.

*For December meeting (tabled for further discussion):*

**Motion 3:** The UFC will engage the faculty in a discussion about faculty, staff, and administrative governance while an interim provost is in place.

(this or additional motions may include recommendations for a timeline for a national search or a length of time for interim provost’s service)

**Rationale:** A period of one to two years will allow us the time to have robust conversations.

Andrew noted that we will also discuss the matter of alternative grading for later terms.