Hi everyone,

Bob Durham is unable to attend UBAC meetings this semester due to teaching commitments. He has asked me to provide the updates that he usually sends.

January 24, 2013 meeting:

There were three primary discussion items: (1) BI degree in Inclusive Early Childhood Education; (2) budget update; (3) Title IX review. On (1): The College of Education presented a Bachelors of Innovation degree in Early Childhood Education. It was noted that a BI is uniquely appropriate for early childhood education providers, many of whom open their own facilities and must manage a business. A vote on the proposal did not occur at the meeting; apparently, it will occur later in the semester. On (2): VCAF Burnett brought to the committee’s attention that a little over $1 million in one-time money is forthcoming from the State legislature to UCCS. This money – the result of an unanticipated state revenue increases – will be reserved for anticipated future cuts. On (3): UCCS commissioned an outside assessment of our Title IX compliance efforts. The conclusion of this report is that if we add women’s golf to our roster of sports, the landscape for adding a number of other sports, men’s and women’s, opens up immediately. A commitment of $92,000 is necessary to bring women’s golf to UCCS.

February 14, 2013 meeting:

There were four primary discussion items: (1) Community College Bachelor Degree Bill; (2) upcoming Regent meeting; (3) budget update; (4) financial aid and retention. On (1): Chancellor Shockley-Zalabak discussed Senate Bill 13-165, which proposes to permit each community college to offer up to 10 bachelor’s degrees in “technical, career, and workforce development baccalaureate degree programs.” Discussion focused on (a) the lack of demonstrated need for the community college bachelor’s degree programs and (b) certain implications of such a change. On (2): the next Regent’s meeting occurs at UCCS next week on 2/20 and 2/21. Its focus will be budgetary and will include discussion of tuition increase proposals from the campuses. UCCS expects to propose a 6% increase. On (3): VCAF Burnett reported that we are looking at a 3.1% pool for faculty salaries; a 3.6% pool for classified staff salaries; and a 5% pool for health, life, and dental insurance. On (4): Chancellor Shockley-!

Zalabak noted that first-year to second-year retention continues to hover at 66-67%, significantly lower than peer institutions. Negative consequences were noted. Discussion about focusing retention efforts on particular sub-populations, among them (a) high-performing, high-need students, and (b) students transferring out of UCCS at the conclusion of their freshman year, ensued. VCSS Wesley noted ongoing efforts of using financial aid as a retention tool. This led to a long discussion of fine-grained financial aid retention strategies.

Respectfully submitted,

Rex Welshon, Associate Dean
College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences