Meeting of the College of Arts and Humanities Assembly  
September 10, 2012  11:00 AM

Minutes

Dean José Fernández called the meeting to order. He made several announcements. On September 15 there will be a Heart Walk to support the American Heart Association and he encouraged everyone to participate. The same day CAH will be represented in the UCF College Day with food and entertainment provided for those attending the events. President Hitt will meet with CAH faculty on September 18, and on September 25 will make his State of the University address.

The minutes from the CAH Assembly of September 12, 2011 were approved. Dean Fernández noted that Associate Dean Lyman Brodie has left that position to take a position in the Provost’s office, and that duties within the CAH office will be adjusted. He introduced Lynn Hepner, Paul Lartonoix, Nancy Stanlick, Rudy McDaniel, Cathy Radzai, Randy McKey, and Laura Pooser who all have roles in the CAH office.

Randy McKey, Senior Director of Development, was introduced and greeted the assembly.

Assistant Dean Nancy Stanlick gave an update and overview of the assessment process. Last year CAH did well and scored well above the UCF average. She said that the use of checklists and rubrics along with training sessions helped. Next year, there will be a new rubric used by UCF.

Dean Fernández called on department chairs to introduce new faculty.

Assistant Dean Rudy McDaniel introduced the CAH Technology Office staff. They work to support 21 servers, 1545 accounts, 900+ workstations, and more than 1000 websites. There is a new property and inventory system for the university. The staff created a new electronic voting system for college elections, which resulted in higher returns. New forms are online. The staff holds weekly IT meetings. Staff can visit department meetings to provide specialized information. He reported that there have been some thefts in Colbourn Hall and the Performing Arts Center. There is a requirement for faculty and staff to archive their email messages, and they must log in to the computer for the archiving process to work; it will not work if people only use the web access for their email.

In the Research area, he reported that there are currently 40 open grants. Funded research is up this year, with a 300% increase in number of grants and a 121% increase in funding. New awards have been announced. A new server is available for research projects. A new conflict of interest procedure is now required for grants. No more funds are available for undergraduate research. This year, there is no funding for in-house grants.
Dean Fernández announced that funding for the College was $1.26M, out of the total cut of $52M for UCF. The projected Student Credit Hours for F2012 shows a loss of 1.5%, creating a loss of $4M which will be absorbed by the business side of UCF. There may be another shortfall of 1.5%, which will affect the colleges. All aspects of higher education are being questioned in Florida. He mentioned the Higher Education Coordinating Council and the Florida Blue Ribbon Task Force on State Higher Education Reform. The value of liberal arts education is being questioned. There is a bill in the state House where funds are slanted to technology and science. The General Education Program will be reduced from 36 to 30 hours in Fall 2015. Foreign language is now required for the AA degree, which will likely result in less demand for those courses at UCF.

Dean Fernández said that the advantages of the liberal arts are overlooked, and that much economic activity is provided by arts and culture in the state. We have serious external challenges, and he will consult with many people to deal with them. He will use his private time and resources to convince others of the benefits, and encouraged others to do the same. We have come through tough times before, and we can get through these also.

He opened the floor for questions. In response to a question about the makeup of a Promotion and Tenure Committee in the Writing and Rhetoric Department, he said that all of the committee members were in-unit except for one. Another faculty member reported that the state Chamber of Commerce does value the liberal arts.

Dean Fernández said that we have already had requests for CAH arts events to support the celebration of UCF’s 50th anniversary in 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15.

Submitted by Keith Koons, Secretary.