Chair Wagner called the meeting to order began with the approval of minutes of the September 11th council meeting. The minutes were approved with 7 votes in favor and one abstention. Provost Mulcahy has elected not to vote with UPPC as an ex-officio member of the Council.

Chairs Report

Questions have arisen about how a program idea becomes a new major with SUNY. As there is some confusion about the procedure, Chair Wagner will be meeting with Jeanette Altarriba, Sue Freed, Rick Fogarty and Bob Yagelski to review how and when proposals go to the Senate Councils. A similar meeting will happen on the graduate side. This information will circle back to the Provost once the meetings are complete.

Provosts Report

Interim Provost Mulcahy reported that he is working on understanding how university processes work and is appreciative of the information he receives as part of UPPC.

New Business

Interdisciplinary BS in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics in Data Analytics (CSMAT-DA)

Dr. Reinhold introduced herself and provided some background on the 2020 funding that has already established faculty lines that will teach in this program. There have been two
Mathematics hires and one Computer Science hire. UAC has already reviewed the proposal. The BS concentration fits well into Math’s established program, preparing students to work in data analytics.

The council asked questions about the fact that separate budgets had been submitted by CCI and Mathematics, which is unusual for a joint program, and that the budgets are very different. Dr. Reinhold responded on behalf of Mathematics, citing that many of the courses for the concentration are already in place, and will be taught by the new 2020 funded faculty member. In order to free the new professor up to teach these courses, Mathematics will need to hire a Teaching Assistant to cover the 100 level course, for which they are seeking $15k over 3 years. No funding is requested for the first year as they believe that enrollment will not be robust in the startup year. Dean Wulfert noted that the proposal has gone through her office and that the TA need has been attended to in a very recent meeting with the Math department. Chair Wagner spoke to the apparent lack of consultations with ITS and the Library as required on the impact form, with Provost Mulcahy adding that classroom availability may be an additional consideration for the program. Dr. Reinhold assured the council that consultation had taken place, but was not noted on their campus impact form.

Ms. Edelson explained the submitted CCI budget, which does not report new costs, but rather the budget for the existing CCI Faculty, Staff and Graduate Assistants that will be involved in the program. This raised a larger discussion on how the Campus Impact Form that is submitted to UPPC should reflect existing verses new resources. Dean Wulfert felt that if the resources are already in place and there are no new expenditures, then UPPC does not need to review that information; the movement of existing resources to provide for a new program is not germane to the mission of UPPC in reviewing resource implications for new programs. Provost Mulcahy thought it would be helpful to see the actual amount of current resources being devoted to a new program along with the new resources being sought.

Dr. Stefl-Mabry asked the council for suggestions to improve the Campus Impact Form. Associate Provost Freed offered to send the SUNY resource form to assist the council with looking at potential impact form changes. Dr. Freed felt that it was helpful to know if resources are being allocated within a department. When the council has the SUNY form to review, it will look at whether resources that are existing, reallocated and new should be incorporated into the Campus Impact form. Dr. McCaffrey suggested that a narrative section could be added to the form that would briefly explain how reallocation of existing resources will take place and the impact thereof would be a useful tool for the council in its deliberations.

Moving back to the proposal, Dr. Perez Rodriguez stated that she felt it was dangerous to say that you can do more with the same amount of money - even the clerical staff will be subject to additional workload when a new program is added. Dean Wulfert replied that deployment is the effective cost of reallocating existing resources. Faculty who are already here cost nothing additional, so there are no new costs associated with the program. She went on to say that the task of UPPC is to investigate new costs and where the money will come from. Dr. Reinhold
agreed that although there is more work, they have two new faculty members in the Mathematics department to address that workload.

Chair Wagner asked the council for any additional questions specifically related to the proposal, observing that we have already invested in this concentration through SUNY 2020 and confirming the allocation with the exception of the Teaching Assistant for Mathematics.

Dr. Wagner then called for a vote to approve the resource implications of proposal, with the proposal then goes to Provost and on to SUNY. 7 members voted in favor of the motion, with no abstentions.

Chair Wagner made a small qualification on quantifying existing resources in a program proposal. In circumstances where there is a significant reallocation of funding from one entity to another, this is generally the province of Provost/Dean, but part of the UPPC charge is to give faculty approval that the resource reallocation makes sense to us. Provost Mulcahy asked how one would check for the impact of reallocation; what is the measure that the plan to continue doing the other work is covered as well. Chair Wagner responded that the Dean’s signature on a proposal means that those concerns have been vetted within the School or College.

Dean Wulfert also briefly mentioned who gets enrollment credit in this joint program. She anticipated the need to sit down with Institutional Research and ask that the enrollments are fairly split so both departments will get appropriate credit – this is not a UPPC concern, but it needs to be resolved between two colleges.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Stern