Minutes of the February 19th meeting were approved as written.

Old Business

The Council approved the revised proposal from Rockefeller College for the Graduate Certificate in Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Emergency Management.

Chairs Report

Chair McCaffrey reported that he has been working on articulating the processes involved in formal faculty consultation. Senate Chair Stefl-Mabry commented that when bills come to the Senate floor, consultation committees should be vetted by governance and that the committees should report regularly to the Senate which allows the body of the whole to give feedback.

Provosts Report

Provost Stellar offered comments on some new enterprises happening on campus. There is an emerging effort with Student Success to advance the freshman/sophomore conversion rate by enhancing first year programs such as writing & critical inquiry. Right now, these classes are too big, and we need to develop an instructional model in line with national standards. We will decrease class size by hiring five more writing and critical inquiry instructors. We are also looking to amplify the living/learning centers. A small group will be convening to start a dialogue on how resources can be managed to support the centers. We need to raise the freshman retention significantly, with a goal of 90% retention. The plan is to launch the enhanced programs this fall.

We are also working on sophomore through senior graduation rates by helping students to figure out what to do after college through experiential education. For example, the School of
Business has an internship program that is piloting a virtual internship in cybersecurity. These types of programs can help with retention. This speaks to the quality of student life; there is a strong correlation between selectivity and retention rates. Big classes are a problematic area for us. The GSO representative asked whether more support equal more TA's or a greater workload for the existing TA's. The Provost replied that he would work toward there being more TA's to reduce class size and increase student engagement. Provost Stellar went on to say that higher education is not recruiting students to be active. It is important to engage students by showing them where they are going with their education, and internships fuel that goal.

Dr. Leventhal asked a question about using Academic Analytics to map our enrollment trends. Dean Wulfert responded that we had a problem with their data a few years ago and we have not used them since. She has heard that they have improved and thinks that maybe we should look at them again. Dr. Wagner agreed that the data we had a few years ago were bad. Dean Faerman expressed concerns about comparability across departments that created controversy in addition to data quality.

Ms. DiDonna made a comment about retention - student athletes smile, hold doors open and engage with faculty and staff on a regular basis, while others in her experience did not. A strong relationship with a coach can make all of the difference. She pondered how we might apply use of the word ‘coach’ more broadly to help with student engagement. Dr. Fabris added that students who are not involved in research are less engaged in classroom learning.

**New Business**

**Engineering Program Discussion**

Sue Faerman and Ann Marie Murray, guests

Dean Faerman and Associate Provost Murray spoke to the Council about developments and immediate needs with the new initiative to develop engineering programs. Dr. Murray noted that the Senate approved the proposal for the Computer Engineering program on Monday, March 9th. They then discussed how the engineering programs are being conceived and how they would fit into our campus. Provost Stellar narrated how the next steps will include concentrating on pockets of excellence to bring in other areas of engineering. We are looking for unique multidisciplinary niches that would make us stand out; we have identified one in Biological Sciences, and another in Atmospheric Sciences that has environmental engineering potential. We have the new program, but need to figure out how to fit the other programs in. We have started structure discussions, considering a college or school of engineering. Dean Faerman remarked that the new department of Computer Engineering changes the face of what CCI looks like, and has led to renaming CCI to the College of Engineering and Applied Science to appropriately describe the disciplines contained therein. It will of course include the current CCI departments, but the renaming will allow us to recruit a Dean who could build the kind of college we want to have.

Council members voiced their approval of the renaming, citing it as thinking in the right direction. Dean Faerman noted that the existing departments are very much applied science fields. Associate Provost Murray added that the future is in managing information, so this ties it
all together nicely. The name fits programs we have and programs that are yet to be determined. Dean Wulfert inquired about the potential for a Bioengineering or Chemical Engineering program. Dr. Murray responded that in examining similar institutions, they have found a natural distinction between natural and applied sciences in Bioengineering, Chemical Engineering, etc. where faculty cross over, but the engineering piece requires specific, common coursework that would put students in both colleges. An example is the Information Science Doctoral program, which includes faculty from multiple colleges, so there is a precedent for developing academic programs that cross college lines. Associate Provost Murray asserted that the future of engineering clearly lies in multidisciplinary programs. We have examples of affiliated faculty that we can use as models. Dr. Fabris commented that from the point of view of research, there is a similar commonality. Provost Stellar added that the idea is to form a core – we either move existing faculty or hire new to form the core. Building a team and getting industry involvement is key to securing large grants. Dean Faerman observed that this parallels the process they are using for hiring in Computer Engineering.

Senate Chair Stefl-Mabry asked whether Information Studies is a fit in this newly conceived College. Dean Faerman responded that it absolutely fits, and aligns quite well with the larger vision for the college. Associate Provost Murray added that we really have to shift focus away from standard engineering types. Using terms with a history that we are going to redefine for the future are critical. If it's about information, not to have library in there does not make sense.

Discussion followed regarding the standard for formal faculty consultation regarding the renaming of CCI. Chair McCaffrey clarified that the formal process is not entirely clear, but that the renaming of the college is one issue, separate from the curriculum and content of the college. We need to be careful about specifying levels of formality. Consultation with faculty in the Faculty Bylaws section 2.2.2 vs. 2.5 consultation with faculty outside of governance bodies raises questions - does the title change require more? Is consultation with UPPC enough? This will be discussed in Senate Executive Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 3:54pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Stern