Rowley – Notes for 1/28/16 meeting:

1. Some items today from Handbook Committee, more to come at subsequent meetings. General idea is to release them as information first, then vote on changes at the next meeting each time. This will allow Faculty Senators a solid amount of time to review the proposed changes and solicit feedback from their constituents.
2. I’m going to keep the reminder about upcoming Senate elections in here. Keep it on your radar, please. Elections are right around the corner! Be thinking about colleagues you can encourage to run for Senate. Rough election timeline right now is for At-Large elections to be held on 3/4/16, College elections on 4/1/16. There are a few other dates ahead of that for the calls for nominations and candidate announcement/statements, but we’ll get to those later. Also be thinking about who is continuing on the Senate in terms of possible executive positions to help support Kaye next year.
3. We (the Strategic Plan Task Force group) are holding a vote to allow for release of the Strategic Plan working draft document to the campus community on 1/26/16. I expect this vote to pass, so you may get a chance to review that document AFTER this set of materials goes out for our 1/28 meeting, but BEFORE the actual meeting has taken place. Please bear in mind that it is still in draft form – nothing is set in stone yet, and changes can still be made. We’re nearing campus forum time in the next month or two. Be ready to encourage your constituents to participate – this thing will only be as good as the work and concerns put into it, so we need everyone’s help to get the best finished product out and ready to use moving forward.
4. Items carried over from last go-around:
   1. Senator Duncan’s concerns: I don’t expect to see any movement on the 3-year VAP position she had referenced in one faculty member’s concern. Administration’s stance on this has been and continues to be that we can’t create positions for particular people. We need to base positions on resources available and their best allocation. On her 2nd concern, however, related to extension of benefits for a faculty member going on a Fulbright fellowship, we have had some positive movement. We have put that faculty member in touch with Graham Gillis in HR, and he has let us know that, provided there is SOME benefit to UCA of some kind (even non-monetary), we should be able to extend benefits. These situations are dealt with on a case-by-case basis, and there was some miscommunication about what the leave of absence was for. I feel positive that a good outcome will be achieved there, and we have the necessary parties talking to each other about it now.
   2. Senator Dilday’s concerns: I have invited Dean Wright to our next meeting. I’m still working out whether he can come to the 1/28 meeting or will need to come to the 2/9 meeting instead, but we’ll get him to come out. At that time, most likely with input from both Dean Wright and Provost Runge, we can get any questions and concerns regarding that strategic realignment of CFAC out in the open and answered. It’ll be a good opportunity for an informative back’n’forth.
   3. Senator Forbush’s concerns: We have VP Chris Davis coming to our meeting on 1/28 to discuss this issue, so I won’t make additional comments on those concerns here.
   4. Senator Isom’s concerns: I reached out to Brad Teague to get clarification on the football turf money origination as well as the issues with the baseball diamond area. Here are his responses:

***The turf should last ten or more years (2021). We did the financials on ten year endurance. No academic money was used yet there was no promise of private funding either. UCA takes $100,000 annually from the athletics maintenance budget to pay itself back. That $100,000 is the saving from no natural grass maintenance and labor.***

***We do charge external constituents for tickets but students and faculty/staff are free. But that is how we want to continue for our internal constituencies.***

***Baseball was paid by private funds. We fix the small torn areas annually at baseball (around the bases).  We will try to make sure it is more presentable. There is no plan to replace the turf until 2020 (ten years for baseball).***

Senator Isom did have an additional concern put forward regarding distribution of lab fees, but I believe that was answered at the time of the previous meeting (and is in the meeting minutes), so I won’t address it here.