Message from the Interim Dean

Colleagues,

Both the Academic Health Sciences Center (AHSC) Task Force and the Urban Innovation and New Media (UINM) Task Force continue to hold meetings and solicit input on planning these two important initiatives. Below are summaries of their latest activities.

AHSC Task Force Update

- Task force members met on Oct. 9 and Oct. 16.
- The task force has decided to create a Population Health Sciences subgroup to explore current interests, activities, and resources in population health sciences, including research, education, and clinical and community services across all health-related colleges and units at UCF.
Task force member Marcia Katz led an open forum on Oct. 10 for members of the College of Medicine’s clinical faculty.

Open forum meetings are planned for the Physical Therapy Program (Oct. 18), Department of Health Management and Informatics (Oct. 19), and School of Social Work (Nov. 8) in COHPA. Members of the unit may participate in their unit’s forum. View the complete schedule.

Chair Deborah German and select members of the task force will host two town hall meetings for faculty and staff “to gather information, ideas, hopes and concerns” regarding the AHSC.

- Friday, Oct. 20, 12 to 1 p.m., HPA I - Room 116
- Monday, Oct. 23, 12 to 1 p.m., Morgridge International Reading Center

**UINM Task Force Update**

- Task force members met on Oct. 11, and unit leaders provided overviews of information submitted using the Program Feedback Worksheet. Overviews were presented by task force members Alisa Smith (Legal Studies) and Rudy McDaniel (Visual Arts and Design), and invited guests Sissi Carroll (Education), Naim Kapucu (Public Administration), Catherine Kaukinen (Criminal Justice), Robert Littlefield (Communication), Ben Noel (FIEA), Reid Oetjen (Health Management and Informatics), and Bonnie Yegidis (Social Work) [and Robyne Stevenson (Public Affairs)]

- The task force also participated in a “Connect the Dots” exercise where members considered each program’s “fit” in an urban environment.

- Members received a copy of the Program Collaboration Heat Map generated with data submitted by the unit leaders using the Collaboration Mapping Worksheet.
• The UINM Executive Committee will meet on Oct. 19 to discuss information from the worksheets, presentations, “Connect the Dots” exercise, and other input.
• The entire task force will meet again on Oct. 24.

Please continue to reach out to members of both task forces (identified here) to share your thoughts and pose questions.

Sincerely,

José Fernández, Ph.D.
Interim Dean