Reports:

I’ve taken part in a handful of meetings over the past week.

I’ll start with Graduate Council – we got a report from Interim Provost Renay Scott. By now you’ve seen the jist of what she had to say in messages from the Chancellor. Provost Scott indicated she didn’t have the bandwidth to do both the Interim job and that of VP of student success – so, the Chancellor sought out an interim provost. That person was named this week – Dorothy Campbell will start on March 1st and will serve until a permanent Provost is chosen. In the interim the Graduate School will remain as a direct report to VP Scott and will stay there until a new provost and a permanent dead for the graduate school are chosen.

Also provided an update regarding the issues of tuition and healthcare for Gas. She indicated that she is making a recommendation to the Chancellor to begin offering tuition renumeration for Gas beginning in Fall 2022. As to healthcare – she said that is a tougher and more complicated ask and that she is continuing to meet with that.

Interim dean Flinchbaugh provided an update on a healthcare survey that had been circulated. I’ll provide a copy of that in the chat. She also discussed the importance of filling out an application for scholar dollars by March 1st – she indicated there is a lot of money available for scholarships this semester.

I also attended the University Administrative Council meeting. The biggest take-away was that there will be changes to the council now that the university has only one administrator. What that will look like specifically has yet to be determined. I was able to provide an update regarding our two events – and briefly discussed the need to review GSOs to determine which dissolved because of COVID.

I also attended the Faculty Senate meeting. In that they discussed working to change a couple of things that would impact graduate students – 1) to lengthen the time students have to add classes without instructor permission – and 2) a proposal that would reduce the number of credits required for full-time status for graduate students from 9-to-6.

Next week I will be attending the Regents’ Student Success Committee and Diversity Council meetings and will have updates from those in our next meeting on March 2nd.