

**Student Affairs and Campus Life Advisory Committee Report  
November 28, 2011**

**Committee Members:** Suzanne Houff, Dan Hubbard (secretary) Kimberly Kinsley, Mike McCarthy (chair) Patricia Reynolds, Shayda Rezadad, Doug Searcy (*ex officio*)

The Student Affairs and Campus Life Advisory Committee met monthly during this semester to review three items we were asked to provide: 1) a definition of duties for this new committee 2) a recommendation at the Dec. 6 UFC meeting as to whether students should have representation on the faculty council 3) a recommendation on how the Student Affairs committee might be restructured, or if it should even continue.

**1) Definition of duties, provided Oct. 19 to the UFC.**

.1 Work in an advisory fashion with the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Associate Vice President & Dean of Student Life on non-academic student priorities, including but not limited to, helping identify timely issues that may put our students in high-risk situations, promoting a positive community ethos across all UMW campuses, publicizing and supporting student-service opportunities, and otherwise helping develop those aspects of campus life, including new buildings, that could enhance students' educational experience. The recommendations for priorities will be communicated to the President via the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Associate Vice President & Dean of Student Life.

.2 Communicate student-affairs and campus-life decisions to the faculty via the Senates, and faculty concerns and ideas back to the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Associate Vice President & Dean of Student Life. Faculty concerns and ideas will be communicated to the President via the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Associate Vice President & Dean of Student Life.

**Rationale:** This was arrived at after a meeting to solicit input from all of Doug Searcy's department heads and a look at the duties of other faculty governance student-affairs committees. The language is modeled after the that of the UFC budget-advisory committee's definition of duties.

**2) Recommendation to appoint a non-voting student representative to the UFC.**

While the Student Government Association and the *Bullet*, among other groups, offer important and visible outlets for students to air issues and concerns, we recommend the UFC appoint one non-voting student member to the UFC to bring matters directly before the faculty.

That representative should be allowed a regular, designated spot at or near the beginning of each UFC meeting to highlight student issues, as needed.

We recommend that the student representative's intended business for any given meeting, as a matter of courtesy, be presented in accordance with UFC standards of advance notice for meeting agendas. We further recommend that the SGA president automatically be the students' representative on the UFC.

**Rationale:** Our research of several COPLAC schools, including UNC (Asheville) and the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, along with non-COPLAC schools, showed no examples of students' being allowed to vote on governing bodies outside of student groups and "student life" type faculty committees. Nonetheless, their voice, if not their vote, would be an important contribution to deliberations around faculty governance.

### **3) Recommendation to keep Student Affairs and Campus Life Advisory Committee intact**

After much discussion at our Nov. 18 meeting, we unanimously voted to recommend that the committee continue as a standing committee of the UFC, largely because this group can focus solely on issues affecting students outside the classroom and the curriculum.

**Rationale:** This committee can and should act as an important liaison between UMW's student-affairs office and our students, whom we as faculty see uniquely in the classroom, during office hours, and in the clubs we advise. Additionally, two students serve on the committee.

We intend to study reports generated by administrative offices—whether residence life, security, wellness, community outreach—and meet regularly with their authors to gain greater insight into student and campus life. We will report our most important findings back to the UFC.

Too many things could fall through the cracks otherwise. A quick example: At our meeting with Doug Searcy's staff, two Health Services nurses approached our committee's Prof. Reynolds, from the College of Education, and told her they had seen student teachers with verified strep throats who told the nurses they were unable to take a "day off" from student teaching and must go to their assigned schools. Prof. Reynolds immediately went back to the faculty at her college to correct this: No, UMW does not want to send sick student teachers into classrooms. If the committee weren't in place, Prof. Reynolds stated, she would never have known about this problem.