University Faculty Council  
February 6, 2015

During its meeting of January 20, 2015 – and during subsequent email communications – the UFC passed the following motion:

**MOTION**: Create an *ad hoc* committee to study the fulfillment of the foreign language (FL) requirement at UMW.

**Rationale**: A request was made to the University Faculty Council by President Hurley and Provost Levin that the UFC determine the most appropriate way to conduct a review of the fulfillment of the Foreign Language requirement at UMW. Members of UFC agreed that it was appropriate to honor this request. Accordingly, the University Faculty Council is establishing an *ad hoc* committee to investigate the fulfillment of the foreign language requirement by undergraduate students who are completing traditional baccalaureate degrees (i.e., BA or BS) at UMW. The foreign language requirement itself – “intermediate competency in a second language” – is not under review.

**Committee Membership:**

1 member of the instructional faculty from CoB (to be elected by the CoB faculty)
1 member of the instructional faculty from CoE (to be elected by the CoE faculty)
1 member of the instructional faculty from the Dept. of Modern Languages & Literatures (to be elected by the department)
1 member of the instructional faculty from the Classics program (to be elected by that faculty)
1 member of the instructional faculty from the General Education Committee (to be elected by that committee)
1 member of the instructional faculty from CAS (but not from MLL or Classics; candidates should submit a one paragraph statement of interest) – to be elected by the CAS faculty

*Ex Officio*: the Registrar and the Associate Dean of CAS

**Duties of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study Fulfillment of the Foreign Language Requirement:**

1. Explore fully how the FL requirement is currently fulfilled by our students. For example:  
   a. How many are taking all 4 semesters of FL? How many take 3, 2, or 1?  
   b. How many test out through UMW’s placement exams?  
   c. How many satisfy FL with AP/IB or SAT test credit? Transfer credits?

2. Investigate what prior high school experience in FL our entering students have.
3. Revisit the learning outcomes that are listed on the General Education Committee website for the FL requirement. Are these too general? Can the learning outcomes be improved?

4. Examine policies and practices regarding fulfillment of FL at peer and Virginia institutions.

5. Investigate ways that fulfillment of the FL requirement might be achieved that could reduce the impact on UMW’s instructional budget. For example, how many false beginners enroll in 101 classes? What options might exist to make placement tests binding? Could credit be awarded retroactively for 101 and 102 if students enroll in 201 or 202 and earn an A or B? [Reducing the number of false beginners would reduce the need for so many sections of 101 courses.]

6. Make recommendations in a written report to address any problems and/or inconsistencies found in the fulfillment process with the overall goal of improving and hopefully shortening the process for students, reducing costs, and delivering a higher quality experience to the students. [For example, what recommendations are made by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), regarding enrollment numbers per section, learning outcomes, and so forth.]

**Duration of Committee’s work:**

The committee should submit a detailed, completed report to the UFC Chair no later than November 1, 2015.