



University Faculty Council Report
Anand Rao, UFC Chair
Board of Visitors Executive Committee Meeting
March 16, 2016

The University Faculty Council met on Wednesday, February 24, 2016. The agenda can be found on the UFC webpage at <http://ufc.umw.edu/2016/02/10/ufc-meeting-agenda-february-24-2016/>. In addition to reports from officers and university committees, the UFC agenda included the following business:

- Invited Guest Reports – The UFC received two guest reports. The first, from Rick Pearce, included a legislative update and a report on faculty/staff use of the University Center dining room. Faculty expressed concern over the limited space available for faculty and staff, noting the past use of the faculty/staff dining room for lunches with job candidates and committee lunch meetings. Faculty asked for the university to look into additional options for faculty and staff dining. The second report, from Hall Cheshire, included an update on the January 2016 data security incident and a report on data protection efforts.
- Salary Benchmark Study – Provost Levin updated the UFC on the revised salary benchmark study and his proposal to adjust faculty salaries to meet those benchmarks. There was strong faculty support for this proposal.
- Use of Outside Letters in Promotion & Tenure Review - The UFC discussed the use of outside letters, written by faculty at other institutions, in the promotion and tenure process. Currently only faculty applying for promotion to professor are expected to include outside letters. Most agreed that requiring the inclusion of outside letters could benefit the review process. The college promotion and tenure committees will be asked for their thoughts on this issue and the UFC will continue discussion at its next meeting.
- Evaluating Online Program Proposals – The Distance and Blended Learning Committee asked the UFC for guidance regarding the review of fully or majority online program proposals. The UFC noted that such review is within the charge of the DBL Committee, and asked the committee to develop a set of review guidelines for consideration.
- Academic Calendar – A number of faculty asked for information about how the academic calendar is developed and approved, with some expressing concern over the impact that the addition of new holidays and weather cancellations have on course schedules. The five-year academic calendar document will be distributed for discussion at the next UFC meeting.

The University Faculty Council will meet on Wednesday, March 30, 2016. The full agenda packet, including support materials, can be found on the agenda page: <http://ufc.umw.edu/2016/02/25/ufc-meeting-agenda-march-30-2016/>. I will provide a report on that meeting for the April 2016 BOV meeting.