

University Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2016

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:33pm by Chair, Anand Rao.

Members Present: Marie Scheckels (COE), Janine Davis (COE), John Broome (COE), Deb O'Dell (CAS), Kurt Glaeser (CAS), Chuck Whipkey (CAS), Paul Fallon (CAS), Rosalyn Cooperman (CAS), David Rettinger (CAS). Gregg Stull (at-large), Anand Rao (at-large); Kristin Marsh (at-large), Ken Machande (COB), Leigh Frackelton (COB), David Ambuel (CAS), Dave Henderson (COB)

Members, ex-officio: Jonathan Levin (Provost)

Members Absent: Rick Hurley (President), Alex Obolensky (SGA Representative – ex officio), Margaret Ray (CAS) (proxy to Rosalyn Cooperman), Marie Wellington (CAS)

Others in attendance: John Morello (Associate Provost), Lynne Richardson (CoB), Richard Finkelstein (CAS), Nina Miikhalevsky (CoE), Rick Pearce (Administration and Finance), Hall Cheshire (Administration and Finance), Mary Beth Matthews (CAS), Jeff McClurken (CAS), Sarah Morealli (CAS), Steve Greenlaw (CAS)

II. The Chair moved to accept the minutes of the previous UFC meeting, which passed unanimously.

III. A guest report was received from Rick Pearce (Administration and Finance), who reported on the current status of the State Budget and particularly those items that apply to the University of Mary Washington. He also discussed Faculty dining options that are currently available at the University Center and engaged in dialog with various members of the UFC as to how to make it a more attractive facility for faculty to use in a variety of purposes while dining.

A guest report was received from Hall Cheshire (Administration and Finance) about a breach of security at the University. A laptop that is the property of the University was stolen, and that laptop contained the personal information of about 4,100 members of the University's community. That the laptop contained this information violated University policy. Those members of the community who were affected have been notified, though some members of the UFC thought the notification process was too expedient.

III. The Provost's report was focused primarily on the Salary Benchmark Survey, which he said indicates faculty members who were hired about 5-15 years ago have seen their comparative income shrink. He has developed the cost of compensating those individuals to be in line with the salary study and has presented those costs to the BOV. He said the cost to adjust salaries in one year is probably too severe to be accepted, but targets the total adjustment to occur over a three year period.

IV. The Vice Chair had no report.

V. Chair moved to accept the minutes of University level Committees and all curricular items presented on the agenda, which were available for review in advance of the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Old Business. The UFAC is moving forward with the administration of the Faculty Morale Survey. There was some discussion about the timing of the survey.

V. New Business. The Distance and Blended Learning Committee asked the UFC whether and how it should consider and evaluate on-line courses and programs. There was lively discussion about on-line course offerings, including comments from several people present who were not members of the UFC who made it known that accrediting agencies have rules about the amount of on-line courses that can be offered without jeopardizing accreditation. The UFC recommended that the Distance and Blended Learning Committee form an ad hoc committee of affected stakeholders to study this issue further and make a recommendation to the UFC in the future.

5:15 pm. A Tornado warning suggesting that we shelter in place occurred. Those in attendance made the decision to continue our meeting in a room within the HCC that does not have external windows, which means we moved the meeting out of the Digital Auditorium. From this point on, the audio files for this meeting may not exist.

The UFC considered the requirement for Promotion and/or Tenure packages to include external evaluations of candidates work. Some members argued that these evaluations would provide independent and, perhaps, unbiased evaluation of a candidate's record. Some questioned what areas of work would be evaluated. Others wondered if the evaluation would take the form of a letter or some other mechanism. The UFC recommended that this matter should be sent to the Promotion and Tenure committees of each of the three colleges for study of the feasibility and impact of external evaluators.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm, which was shortly after the tornado warning expired.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the UFC is on Wednesday, March 30, 2016, at 3:30 pm, in the Hurley Convergence Center's Digital Auditorium, weather permitting.