



Faculty Representative Report  
Anand Rao, Chair of the University Faculty Council  
Board of Visitors Meeting  
February 17, 2017

**University Faculty Council Meetings on November 30<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>.** Since my last report in November, the University Faculty Council has held two meetings where a host of guest reports, university committee reports, and action items were considered. On November 30<sup>th</sup> the UFC received guest reports from CFO Rick Pearce and Associate Vice President Sabrina Johnson, presenting the Advisory Committee for the 403B Retirement Plan, from the Staff Advisory Council, with a discussion of staff representation on the UFC, and Associate Provost Tim O'Donnell, outlining Faculty Development Plans for August 2017. On February 1<sup>st</sup> the UFC received guest reports from CIO Hall Cheshire, discussing changes to VPN access and local administrator access, and Associate Provost Tim O'Donnell, presenting results from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) of UMW students. A number of curricular proposals were also considered and approved at both meetings, prompting substantive discussion of the consideration process for majority online courses and programs (see below).

**Faculty Governance Priorities for 2016-2017.** At the beginning of the year the UFC discussed six issues that were identified as priorities for this year. The following provides an update on recent efforts to address those issues.

1. Communication and Transparency in Faculty Governance – in addition to the agenda materials, the [ufc.umw.edu](http://ufc.umw.edu) site now also includes video recordings and executive summaries for each meeting.
2. Compensation – in November the Provost created a small ad hoc committee to review a set of compensation adjustment models. The committee is comprised of the chairs of the University Faculty Council, the University Faculty Affairs Committee, and the University Budget Advisory Committee. This group has met with Acting Provost Mikhalevsky and has been asked to make a recommendation on which model should be used for the foreseeable future. This group anticipates making a recommendation by the end of February.
3. Workload – the Ad Hoc Workload Analysis Group met with the Acting Provost Mikhalevsky to discuss several proposals generated by the Provost's Office. Mikhalevsky will share the proposals with the CAS Department Chairs and Academic Council for further discussion and feedback. The ad hoc workload analysis group has been asked to make final recommendations regarding the proposals by late February.
4. Morale – at its November meeting the President's Leadership Council worked on

- responses to the Great Colleges to Work For employee survey. The UFC will request an update on these efforts for discussion at a meeting later in the spring.
5. Class Format – at the November 30<sup>th</sup> UFC meeting, the Distance and Blended Learning Committee presented a draft proposal process for the consideration of majority online programs. The proposal was discussed and the draft was taken back to the Distance and Blended Learning Committee for further consideration. While discussing a packet of curricular proposals for a new majority-online program at its February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the UFC outlined concerns with sequencing within the broader curricular approval process for majority online courses and programs. Currently, new course proposals are considered by the college and university curriculum committees and should be approved by the UFC before the Distance and Blended Learning Committee considers the courses' online delivery. At our February meeting the UFC agreed that the curricular approval process should be amended to include consideration of course delivery options earlier in the curricular approval process. The UFC Chair will work with the University Curriculum Committee and the Distance and Blended Learning Committee to develop suggested changes to the curricular approval process, with the intent of discussing those changes at the March 1<sup>st</sup> UFC meeting.
  6. Academic Calendar – the UFC discussed possible changes to the Academic Calendar at its November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, and will request that the Provost's Office engage in a formal review and consideration of the construction of the academic calendar.

**UMW Faculty Participation in Commonwealth Faculty Governance.** UMW faculty participated in Virginia Higher Education Advocacy Day (VHEAD) on January 12, 2017 in Richmond. VHEAD is sponsored by the Faculty Senate of Virginia (FSVA) and the Virginia chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), and includes outreach to our Delegates and Senators to promote the importance of higher education in Virginia. Attached to this document are the position paper prepared for this year's VHEAD and my report to UMW faculty on the January 12<sup>th</sup> event.

UMW representatives to FSVA and AAUP are making plans to host both groups on our campus in April. Each group will hold its own meeting in the morning with a joint meeting in the afternoon.