

University Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
March 30, 2016

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:35pm by Chair, Anand Rao.

Members Present: Margaret Ray (CAS), Marie Wellington (CAS), Marie Scheckels (COE), Janine Davis (COE), John Broome (COE), Deb O'Dell (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), Dave Henderson (COB), David Ambuel – by proxy (CAS), Kurt Glaeser – by proxy (CAS)

Members, ex-officio: Rick Hurley (President), Jonathan Levin (Provost), Alex Obolensky (SGA Representative)

Members Absent: None

Others in attendance: Richard Finkelstein (CAS), Nina Mikhalevsky (CoE), Mary Beth Matthews (CAS), Suzanne Sumner (CAS), Dana Hall (CAS), Werner Wieland (CAS), Eric Bonds (CAS)

II. The Chair moved to accept the minutes of the previous UFC meeting, however they had not been circulated, so passing them was postponed to a later date.

III. President Hurley spoke about the additional budget needs of UMW that will be presented to the Board of Visitors and he provided the UFC with a breakdown of how the requested funds would be used. He commented that he has read the Report on Divestment, and while he did not agree with how the forecasts for returns were developed, he recognized the hard work and effort that was required to prepare the report.

III. The Provost showed the UFC the five-year academic calendar, and he told us that it could potentially change. He said that his team was considering moving Spring Break to accommodate the eight-week classes offered on campus (whose finals fall in the week of Spring Break). He informed the UFC that there is work being done by the ad-hoc Faculty Workload Analysis group, and he hope that group has a report completed by the end of the spring semester.

IV. The SGA representative stated that the SGA supports Option A of the Report on Divestment, and that the SGA appreciated the recognition of the need for more counsellors in the Talley Center.

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 Faculty Morale Survey has been distributed to faculty.

The UFC discussed the feedback received from the three College's Promotion and Tenure Committees about the requirement of external evaluator letters for each candidate for promotion. All of the college's responses were similar in that the letters are often included currently and the benefit received from requiring letters seems minimal. The Provost's position is that external letters would be helpful because they would be another means of evaluating P&T packages that are inconsistent between departments and colleges, thereby providing another tool to appraise a candidate's accomplishments. The UFC agreed that the Provost should contact the chairs of the various P&T committees to draft a suggested letter that might be used as a template by all three colleges. The letter, or guidelines, can be used by candidates immediately, and could serve as the template should external letters be required at some point.

V. New Business. The motion to show support for the recommendations included in the Special Report on Divestment at the University of Mary Washington was discussed. President Hurley stated he will make a recommendation to the Board of Visitors on April 15, but he was unwilling to disclose his position to the UFC. Eric Bonds told the UFC that climate change is real, and a statement from the BOV to divest would have impact. He said our endowment is currently divested (99.7%) and it should remain divested. The chair called the question, and the motion passed by a vote of 15-0, with three abstentions.

The chair called the question to pass a motion to create a University Journalism Advisory Committee, submitted by the UFOC. The motion passed unanimously.

The chair called the question to pass a motion to change the terms of service on for UFC members in the faculty handbook after explaining it will be in effect for next year's UFC if passed by the UFC today and the BOV in the April 15 Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The chair called the question to pass a motion to change the faculty handbook to provide the UFC chair a one course release per semester while serving as chair. The motion passed unanimously.

After some discussion about the impact of adding a student representative to the University Budget Advisory Committee, the chair called the question to change the faculty handbook to allow a student representative on that committee. The motion passed 13-4, with one abstention.

Last, the chair called the question of approving the UFC Governance Calendar for the 2016/2017 academic year. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the UFC is on Monday, April 18, 2016, at 3:30 pm, in the Hurley Convergence Center's Digital Auditorium.