

UFC Chair Report – January 2019

I'm really excited to see the report with suggested models from the General Education Committee! I like the way they laid out what we have so far and their suggestions, and I look forward to several substantial discussions about our core curriculum. Thanks again to the committee for their efforts.

I've attended a few more meetings with Huron, the financial consultants. They have presented results of meetings with focus groups and stakeholders on recruitment, retention and financial aid. In mid-January, they were doing the following (per Jeff McClurken):

1. Conducted conversations with several members of the Steering Committee to discuss surfaced opportunities related to the SEM Plan (for example, they talked with Juliette and Tim O. about their initial thoughts on retention).
2. Utilizing feedback from the conversations with Steering Committee members, they have started to refine their recommendation set
3. Developed a Housing and Dining analysis to help drive scenarios related to adjustments in the Auxiliary Comprehensive Fee
4. Continued to model tuition pricing scenarios to assess net tuition revenue impacts (a particular priority for the conversations that Troy and I have been having in Richmond with legislators).
5. In the process of finalizing the revision of the Retention analysis slide deck with expanded data appendices.

At the next two meetings, the entire group will respond to and discuss Huron's recommendations.

The next Board of Visitors meeting is Feb 7-8. Members will be taking a tour of campus on the Thursday afternoon and will have a regular meeting on the Friday, with a lunch in the UC with students. I will be attending most of Friday and will give a report similar to this one!

I attended an Alumni Board on Saturday Jan 26, on behalf of Holly Schiffrin. Nina also gave a report. We both talked about AACSB accreditation, College of Education program changes, and changes to the general education curriculum – members of the alumni board had questions for both of us on these issues, but especially on general education. Nina encouraged them to think about what makes a Mary Wash student, and basically to trust that the faculty wants to keep those characteristics! They recognized that "core curriculum" is a more modern term and are really curious to see what we decide. I saw a presentation the Young Alumni Council (young alumni are those who graduated in the past 10 years, see [this link](#)) which laid out their vision, mission and goals and was incredibly impressive; these former students would be good to invite to "career day" or "grad school day" in your department, to tell how they got to the next step; they would be happy to come speak at a senior seminar class about anything relevant, not only by major. I also saw a presentation the Student Alumni Ambassadors (see [here](#)), which is a group I did not know existed. Their main goal is to represent the student body to alumni and others and to assist Alumni Relations at events, while giving students professional and networking experience. They were very impressive. What struck me most about interacting with the entire Alumni Board is their desire to be involved. They were VERY excited about the plan to hire a new director of the Center for Career and Professional Development as they would enjoy opportunities to mentor students, to help with resume-writing and networking, all of which

need a sustained method by which to involve alumni and students. The Alumni Board is trying to diversify its membership, and has a list of people who want to join. If you think your department or group could benefit from interaction with alumni, I encourage you to reach out to Mark Thaden.