

TO: Jackie Gallagher, UFC Chair
FROM: Keith Mellinger, CAS Dean
DATE: March 2019
RE: Report for UFC meeting

All eight tenure-track searches in CAS are now complete. In one case, the search failed. In all other cases, the search ended with us hiring our first choice candidate. A summary of those new hires is here:

Sociology (criminology/quant) – **Bridget Brew** – PhD expected in May 2019 from Cornell University

Biology (genetics) – **Ginny Morriss** – PhD from Univ. of New Mexico (2012), currently a postdoctoral associate at Baylor College of Medicine

Biology (cell) – **Swati Agrawal** – PhD from Univ. of Georgia (2011), currently a visiting asst. professor at Washington College

English (creative writing) – **Rachel Levy** – PhD from Univ. of Utah (2018), currently a post-doc at Michigan State

Music (theory) – **Robert Wells** – PhD from Eastman School of Music (2015), currently a visiting asst prof at UMW

Physics (experimental) – **Varun Makhija** – PhD from Kansas State Univ. (2014), currently a visiting asst prof at Bowdoin College

Theatre (design) – **Bridgette Dennett** – MFA from Indiana University (2018), currently a scenic designer at Wabash College

In addition, we hired a visitor in Political Science (Latin American) – **Melissa Martinez** – PhD from Univ. of North Texas (2018), currently a visiting asst prof at Luther College. We are currently searching for a new volleyball coach (position still posted), and, as long as we can make it work financially, visitors in computer science, psychological science, chemistry, and nursing (if our enrollments hit the projected numbers).

I have been busy working to create more opportunities for our students. I visited VA Tech in February with Zach Hatcher (advancement). We hosted an alumni event, visited a potential donor, and met with administration in the College of Science as well as department heads in Psychology and Biology about accelerated pathways into their masters programs. In March, Randall Helmstutler (mathematics) and I visited with the administration of GMU's Volgenau College of Engineering to discuss accelerated pathways for our students into their graduate programs in operations research and systems engineering. Charlie Sharpless (chemistry/physics) and I will visit the Physics Department at VCU in April, and I have been in discussion with an assistant dean in the College of Engineering at UVA. In all cases, the graduate programs are very interested in welcoming our high-achieving students into their programs. We are in the process of negotiating language for potential MOUs.

Over spring break, I spent a week in Japan with Jose Sainz (Director of the Center for International Education). We visited Akita International University where UMW recently established a partnership exchange agreement. UMW has three students scheduled to study abroad at AIU in the fall, and more planned for spring 2020. We also visited Japan Women's University to discuss the possibility of them sending a cohort of students to UMW, as well as Kansai Gaidai University, which is interested in setting up an exchange with UMW. In addition to the universities, we had the pleasure of visiting with representatives from the TOBITATE Study Abroad Initiative, the US Embassy in Japan, and the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Program. The trip left us with many ideas on how to expand opportunities for UMW students.



I want to thank each of the academic departments in CAS who were actively engaged in Giving Day. I am anxiously awaiting final numbers, but all indications are that the college exceeded last year's numbers, both in donors and dollars. Related, many of the departments recently developed new marketing materials, including videos and brochures. Some units have created alumni newsletters, coordinated through the alumni office. All is moving UMW and CAS in a very positive direction.

Finally, from the chairs meeting:

- Be certain to complete the cybersecurity training. You will be locked out of your account if you do not complete the training.
- Rita Dunston updated everybody on the 25Live implementation. Your chair should be able to brief you on that.
- Surupa Gupta will be taking over the direction of the Women and Gender Studies program. There will be a workshop on May 21 for faculty interested in teaching WGST courses. Reach out to Kristin Marsh (current director) or Surupa if you are interested in participating.