

From the University Faculty Organization Committee (UFOC), October 1, 2019:

Recommended Changes to Committee's Membership: The committee recommends that

- 1. those on this committee in the future continue to seek the input of department chairs [and Associate Deans] when considering policies that will affect faculty, such as scheduling/finals/etc.*
- 2. They also recommend at least one full professor or senior lecturer on the committee for the sake of institutional knowledge.*
- 3. The Committee on Academic Standing could possibly combined with Academic Affairs. This was a passing suggestion, though, and not a firm recommendation.*

UAAC response

We discussed these recommendations at our November 4 meeting, and there was general consensus on what we thought. We have written down our thoughts on each of the suggestions made below:

1. We agree that input from Department chairs can prove valuable, and would welcome their presence in our meetings. We also realize that for some discussions, Department chairs' participation will be more relevant than in others, which brings us to the issue of whether this should be part of a broader procedure. That is, we would like to ask the UFC to discuss whether all or some UMW committees should publish their meeting agendas in advance so that Department chairs can decide whether they want to weigh in in those meetings.
2. We agree that we benefit from institutional knowledge in our committee, and that there can be ways to safeguard it for the future. However, we also feel that the requirement to have one full professor or senior lecturer in the committee narrows down the pool of possible members, and it would preclude tenured faculty members and lecturers who have not applied for further promotion, to participate, even if they have been at UMW for a long time (while still having institutional knowledge). Additionally, we also count on Ex-Officio members to help with institutional memory. What we have discussed in the meeting is to request that the at-large members be tenured, that way we can make sure that at least two of the faculty members have had more than a few years at UMW.
3. Since the Committee on Academic Standing is not a faculty committee, we do not see how the two committees could be combined in a way that the UAAC still fulfills its purpose. Also, since the Committee on Academic Standing meets twice a year, it would be hard for the UAAC to cover the numerous issues we discuss throughout the year.