

General Faculty Meeting

Wednesday, February 5, 2020 4-5:30pm – HCC Digital Auditorium

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order and Introduction
 - Meeting called to order by UFC Chair Anand Rao at 4:02pm.

2. Proposed governance changes and streamlining faculty service– these include recommendations from UFOC, several University Committees, and the CAS Faculty Council. The following are organized by how they were submitted, with a list of proposed changes. We do not intend a detailed discussion of specific Handbook language, but instead would ask for expression of support, or concern, about more general suggestions and ideas. Open the linked documents for more details.
 1. UFC Governance Changes:
 - a. UFC Leadership
 - b. Executive Committee – Chair, Vice-Chair, Past-Chair, Secretary, Parliamentarian
 - c. Add a year to term for Past Chair (if necessary)
 - d. Add ex officio representative from the CAS Department Chairs
 - e. Add a contingent faculty member to UFC

Comment from the floor: Renewal term is fine but if it's a contract faculty member then there should be a stipend. (faculty comment)

Question from the floor: Could the ex-chair be ex officio after the two year term? This was recommended for further discussion within the UFC. (faculty question)

Discussion opened and the rationale for 1d was to represent CAS Department Chairs to encourage communication between the CAS Department Chairs and the rest of UFC. This will be a non-voting member.

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 2. Proposed Faculty Handbook changes from the UFOC committee:
 - a. UFC - elections text; remove expectation to provide a written statement
 - b. UFOC - delete requirement for digital archive (already on ufc.umw.edu)
 - c. Distance & Blended Learning - composition of committee (add ODR, remove VP for Student Affairs)
 - d. CAS Curriculum Committee - remove student reps

Question from the floor: what is the rationale for removing student reps, response: the challenge has been to fill positions on the CAS Curriculum Committee)?
 - e. CAS Faculty Development and Grants - require 6 full time faculty

3. Univ Committee responses to UFOC:
 - a. UAAC - change composition to include at least one full prof for institutional knowledge and history (committee noted could accomplish this with 'must be at UMW for at least x years').

Comment from the floor: The rationale for this change was that it was proposed to have a full professor simply for institutional memory; however, a faculty member can be at UMW for a long time and not be a full professor.

b. UBAC - committee likes the current model, but requested that UBAC members be allowed to serve two consecutive terms (UFOC supports this, but only for UBAC).

Comment from the floor: The timeline of this committee should be clarified before this change can be considered.

4. CAS Faculty Council Suggestions for Streamlining Faculty Governance:

a. Consolidate Gen Ed curriculum approvals into a single committee (SI, WI, DI, for instance).

Comment from the floor: If the committee is to be streamlined then it would require people who are experts in that area, those who represent SI would need have taught an SI class.

Response from the floor: It is not necessary, we have resources that can be brought in if needed. We're competent to evaluate proposals without having taught the type of class (SI, WI, DI).

Comment from the floor: If the committee does not come to be then the DI would need to be created, currently it is ad hoc.

Comment from the floor: having a body such as this can help to streamline multiple deadlines for a course that falls under multiple designations.

b. Revise the curriculum review process

c. Incorporate committees (Distance & Blended Learning, and Honors) into the University Curriculum Committee

Comment from the floor: Community engagement would also like to be grouped within the single committee.

Comment from the floor: online teaching is very different and if put this committee into the UCC then this could be problematic.

Comment from the floor: It is required that honors must seek approval from CAS even though it is not housed in CAS, this is in the handbook but should be changed.

d. Create a Program Advisory Committee for program directors in lieu of separate faculty advisory committees

Question from the floor: Are you including academic program committees into this program advisory committee? For example, women's and gender studies?

Response from the floor: this is not to take advisory committees from those that feel they are essential, this is more a longer term proposal with input from those program committees.

e. Change CAS Faculty Council to serve as a Caucus of the CAS

Question from the floor: can you elaborate on what this means?

Response from the floor: the proposed change was part of a reinvisioning of what the role of CAS curriculum proposal was. A caucus of the CAS Faculty would be able to meet as needed.

Straw Poll

How many present at the meeting were in favor of going to a set time when there are faculty meetings to allow for committees to meet. This is something that the UFC can consider. Approximately 50% of those present supported this idea. Approximately 65 people in attendance.

Impending structural changes in higher education in Virginia, and what it means for UMW faculty - in part a reaction to remarks shared at President Paino's opening assembly on January 14th, but also informed by leadership discussions over the last year, we anticipate an important discussion about how faculty can lead UMW into the next phase in UMW's history. We recognize that UMW will change over the coming years – what do those changes mean to our role as faculty? What do we wish to retain from the 'UMW experience,' what will our role, as faculty, be, and what does it all mean for what we, as faculty, should be doing?

Comment from the floor: If there is a role for faculty governance, this is something that should be deliberated by a representative standing committee.

Response by Chair: Could we parse out parts to different committees?

Comment from the floor: There needs to be specific actions that need to be defined which would feed into what we define as our role as faculty at UMW.

Comment from the floor: When I started many years ago, we did not have a faculty fellows program. Can this be restructured? This related to the role of different faculty, could this be developed more so that we can take more ownership of our projects. Is there a better way to allocate the faculty fellows program?

Comment from the floor: We are not doing enough to support those who are making the transition from non-traditional routes such as community colleges.

Comment from the floor: From teaching an FSEM, the life skills portion was strikingly deficient. This is the student deficit and if we are to increase retention then it needs to put more emphasis on life skills.

Comment from the floor: The same experience as discussed earlier, students are coming in with deficiencies in academic and emotional maturity. It is not positive for a high school student to enter with an Associate's degree.

Comment from the floor: I have worked with transfer students and those who enter from high school. The challenge is the transition from those with an associates degree from community college. We do not do a very good a job selling our programs to state wide community colleges. This should be made a priority.

Comment form the floor: There is an engagement with the total student experience, that is what separates us from the larger institutions. We have to continue to build our systems to support the students that we have. This should be a charge to different faculty committees so that different

committees can approach what is really valuable to the UMW experience from the perspective of their committees.

Comment from the floor: COB Dean has offered to hold workshops on how to market programs and departments within the UMW.

Comment from the floor: Our digital profile is not a positive, even our department websites are difficult to access. Also, does the UFC receive updates from advancement on fundraising, if not then they should. (response from the Chair: this is a good suggestion).