



Faculty Representative Report  
Anand Rao, UFC Chair  
Board of Visitors Executive Committee Meeting  
May 8, 2020

The University Faculty Council has held three meetings since my last report to the Board of Visitors, including two held via Zoom meeting. We have also held three open online forums for faculty and staff to discuss items of concern. Given the unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 public health emergency, and its impact on our university community, our faculty governance structure has focused on issues of immediate concern for faculty, students, and staff, as they navigate this crisis.

The first meeting was held on Wednesday, February 26, 2020. In addition to approval of meeting minutes and reports from University Committees, the UFC took action on the following:

- I. Approval of Action Items: [Honors Program](#) (course designation approval 1/27/20), [Honors Program](#) (capstone project proposal approval - 2/7/20), [Distance and Blended Learning](#) (course designation approval)
- II. [Motion: Mid-Semester Progress Reports](#) – to provide academic progress reports for all students, not just those with unsatisfactory progress.
- III. [Motion: Changes to the Faculty Handbook to Create a UFC Executive Committee](#) – the pilot use of an Executive Committee this year has proven successful. The committee consists of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Past-Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian.
- IV. [Motion: Change to the Faculty Handbook to Create an Ex Officio Representative to the UFC from the CAS Department Chairs](#) – the addition of this ex officio representative is intended to promote greater coordination and cooperation between the CAS Chairs and the UFC.

The second meeting was held on Wednesday, March 25, 2020. This was the first UFC meeting held via Zoom, and was attended by approximately 110 faculty, administrators, staff, and students. The meeting agenda focused on concerns related to the university's response to the COVID-19 crisis. In addition to approval of meeting minutes and reports from University Committees, the UFC took action on the following:

- I. [Motion: Allow Credit/Pass/No Credit/No Credit for Spring 2020](#) – to provide a new optional grading system that provides students with greater flexibility during a difficult semester.
- II. [Motion: Summer 2020 Approval Process for Remote Teaching](#) - outlined a streamlined approval process to allow for remote teaching during Summer 2020.

- III. [Motion: End of the Year Faculty Meeting to be Held Electronically](#) – provided a procedure to hold the end of the year faculty meeting via Zoom on April 22, 2020.
- IV. [Motion: Faculty Governance Approval Process](#) – in recognition of the unique nature of the current crisis, and the likely need for rapid action by faculty governance through our shared governance structures, this motion provides a means by which the UFC Executive Committee can call a UFC meeting over the summer, or act on behalf of the UFC in the event that a meeting cannot be held.
- V. [Motion: One-Year Optional Extension for Promotion & Tenure](#) – this recommendation to the Provost provides tenure-track faculty with the option to extend the deadline for submitting their tenure and promotion file.
- VI. Discussion of Teaching Evaluations for Spring 2020 – while no motion was presented, the UFC and the Provost discussed the use of Spring 2020 course evaluations for informative and not evaluative purposes.

The third UFC meeting was held on April 15, 2020 meeting via Zoom. In addition to approval of meeting minutes and reports from University Committees, the UFC took action on the following:

- I. Action Item: [Honors Program](#) (course designation); [Speaking Intensive Committee](#) (change to Learning Outcome, and new [SI Online Course Proposal Form](#)); [Distance & Blended Learning Committee](#) (course designation).
- II. [Motion: Changes to Section 6 “Faculty Evaluation Procedures” of the Faculty Handbook](#) – this change represents work that the University Faculty Affairs Committee started two years ago, providing an evaluation procedure that more closely reflects the current nature of faculty work.
- III. [Motion: Clarify Language in Section 6.2.2 of the Faculty Handbook](#) – the need to clarify this language was uncovered in discussion of the above item.
- IV. [Motion: Creation of an Ad Hoc Digital Intensive Committee for 2020-2021](#) – to provide curricular review of Digital Intensive course proposals.
- V. [Motion: Charge General Education Committee with Review of Community Engagement \(CE\) Proposals](#) – to clarify curricular review of Community Engagement course proposals.
- VI. [Motion: Approval of Summer 2020 Remote Teaching Course Proposals](#).
- VII. [Motion: AMEND – End of the Year Faculty Meeting to be Held Electronically](#).
- VIII. [Motion: Addition of a UFC meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2020](#).

The University Faculty Council will hold its last meeting of the year on Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at 3:30. The [agenda](#) will be posted by May 8, 2020, in time for discussion of this submitted report.