

UFC Special Meeting
Friday, June 12
Online (via Zoom), 3-5 PM

Members in Attendance: Janine Davis (COE, UFC Secretary), Teresa Coffman (COE), Jennifer Walker (COE), Kenneth G. Machande (COB, UFC Vice Chair), Kashef Majid (COB), Mike Lapke, COB), Andrew Delaney (CAS, Health, PE, & STEM), Margaret Ray (CAS, Social Sciences), Suzanne Sumner (CAS – Health, PE, & STEM), Miriam Liss (CAS, Social Sciences), Laura Mentore (CAS, Social Sciences), Larry Lehman (CAS, Health, PE, & STEM), Anand Rao (CAS, At-Large, UFC Past Chair), Andrew Dolby (CAS, At-Large, UFC Chair), Kate Haffey (CAS – Arts & Humanities), Kristin Marsh (CAS, At-Large), Gregg Stull (CAS – Arts & Humanities), Marcel Rotter (CAS, Arts & Humanities, UFC Parliamentarian),

Proxies: none noted

Guests: There were 85 people logged into the meeting. Included within this number were: UMW Provost Nina Mikhalevsky (Ex-Officio), Peter Kelly (Dean COE), Keith Mellinger (Dean CAS), Troy Paino (Ex-Officio), and Jeff McClurken (Chief-of-Staff)

This meeting can be viewed [here](#) (UMW log-in required)

Notes: The meeting was held via Zoom with both UFC members and outside members. UFC members were encouraged to indicate that they would like to speak by initiating the request via the chat function.

I. Call to Order

Andrew Dolby called the meeting to order at 3 PM. He offered opening remarks thanking the UFC for their attendance at this special meeting and thanking all of those who have been working on important business during the summer.

II. Reports

1. President, Troy Paino

President Paino offered a report over Zoom. He thanked the members of the working groups and transition team for their work during the summer and in these trying times. He has talked recently with Senator Warner about the challenges that universities are facing about the fall. The president also thanked the faculty for their hard work in transitioning some of their courses online during the summer. Finally, the president noted recent UMW student involvement in recent protests and expressed pride for their commitment to fighting systemic racism. He has heard from students in town hall meetings

about their concerns about UMW police involvement in the protests. A commission will be formed in the coming weeks to address these issues. The commission will include at least one faculty member, two alumni, and two student representatives, all of whom have been named by various stakeholders across the university. The president offered an apology in the event that anyone in the community has been upset by his recent actions.

2. Provost, Nina Mikhalevsky

Provost Mikhalevsky noted that dozens of faculty were offering messages of support to President Paino in the chat box. She echoed appreciation for the work of the task force during the summer, as well as thanks to members of the UFC and the faculty for their work on course development. The pre-week schedule for the fall will come out in about two weeks. Supervisors have received memos about developing plans for the fall; all spending on PPE and cleaning supplies should be centralized and not purchased by departments. The Provost recommended that those who learn about useful practices from other universities should feel free to communicate those recommendations to her. She welcomed input on the discussion items that appear on this agenda.

3. UFC Chair, Andrew Dolby – [Chair's Report](#)

Andrew Dolby shared his report, which outlined his involvement in the task force and participation in a Virtual Town Hall with Virginia Secretary of Education, Atif Qarni, thus far.

4. UFC Past Chair, Anand Rao – [Virginia Education Work Group](#)

Anand Rao shared his experience as a member of the Virginia Education Work Group. He welcomed input and questions from the faculty to bring to this group—those wishing to do so should reach out to him over email.

III. Action Items

1. Action item from [FSEM Committee](#)

[FSEM Committee June 11 Action Item](#)

There were no questions about the motion. The motion passed with no abstentions.

2. Action item from [Honors Committee](#)

[Honors Committee June 8 Action Item.](#)

There were no questions about the motion. The motion passed with no abstentions.

IV. Items for Discussion

1. Fall and spring academic calendar changes

[DRAFT Spring 2021 Academic Calendar for UFC Discussion](#)

Andrew Dolby noted that these recommended changes come from the public health task force. Some comments were made about the challenge of keeping students on campus even if there is no spring break, and the issue of stress and low morale if there is no break. Increased activities on campus might help keep students involved and closer to campus.

Question: What about study abroad travel?

Answer: These trips will most likely not occur until there is a vaccine.

Comment: This might affect faculty time for grading.

Response: Faculty might need to adjust assignments and build in a break for themselves.

Andrew Dolby shared that the faculty does not have a formal role in developing the academic calendar in the handbook, but that this might be an issue for the UFC to address in this coming year.

2. Possible 3-week pilot January Term

[Rationale](#)

Links to January Term at other institutions:

- [UVA](#)
- [JMU](#)
- [SMCM](#)

After the idea of a January term was raised in a task force meeting due to the proposed late spring semester start, the UFC Executive committee determined that we would like faculty input on its feasibility. Andrew Dolby took on the task of writing the rationale and shared it (linked above). The rationale was for a one-time pilot January term; it was compiled from various proponents of the idea.

Comment/Question: This is a challenging time to add another new program. Can we remove the word “permanent” from the rationale? Also, if a J term continues in the future, it could affect graduation dates.

Change: Delete the word “permanent” from the motion.

[Note: the rationale was not for a permanent January term, but the possible future benefits were noted as a point of discussion.]

Question: What are we voting on?

Answer: This would be a one-time pilot for the January term this year only. It would only extend into future years with a full faculty vote.

Comments: These programs can be good for study abroad/beyond UMW-type courses. This would be additional work for students and faculty, as well as administration and offices such as the registrar. This may also be a way to offer a chance for faculty to supplement their salaries instead of regular raises for the usual amount of work.

Question: Have we consulted students?

Response: Over previous years, the administration has often heard about a need for more flexibility in terms, especially for working and non-traditional students. This recommendation came out of a need for flexibility and the opportunity of a newly extended gap between fall and spring semester and not as an answer to budget concerns.

Comment: This could lead to faculty burnout. (multiple comments along these lines)

Comment: This is a good opportunity to increase revenue.

Comment: The logistics of approving courses is something to consider—when can new courses be approved for the catalog?

Response: The catalog is in place for the upcoming year. We would likely have to use courses that have already been approved for the year.

Special topics courses may be a good fit for this structure.

Comment: There will be lots of issues to consider and it's unclear what the discussion is (pilot or staying connected?)

Response: We can consider it in both ways.

Comment: Can we remove the word “pilot”?

Response: Maybe we can propose 1-3 credits for special topics courses. Also this will be optional for faculty, but it might help address some workload issues.

The motion “the UFC endorses a voluntary 3-week January 2021 term” was made by Anand Rao and seconded by Janine Davis.

The motion passed with three abstentions.

3. Proposed time blocks for courses

[DRAFT Course Time Blocks for Fall 2020 -UFC Discussion](#)

Comment: M/W course slots from 8-9:15 and 2-3:15 have not been included in the changes.

Comment: 7:50 AM is especially challenging—could the first slot stay at 8?

Comment: What about the cleaning crew (the contract, their safety)?

Comment: Students should be allowed to reconsider their fall schedules after this change.

Comment: Student-athletes may have conflicts as well.

Response: Academic task force can look at this.

(Later comment regarding athletes: Athletics is working on how they will welcome athletes in the fall while also following state, university, and NCAA guidelines)

4. Teaching remotely in fall semester

There was a change to the deadline for submitting the forms for online courses—it was originally the first week of the semester; it is now today (Friday, June 12). These should be sent to Evie Sherlock as well as to department chairs. It may be possible for these forms to come in later, especially for courses that first-year students would not take.

5. Role of faculty in maintaining COVID-19 related health and safety guidelines during the 2020-21 academic year.

There will be supplies at lecterns; some behavioral expectations will be shared in the fall so that we can maintain common guidelines and practices for everyone. More details will be shared in the coming weeks.

Comment: faculty will need clear and firm guidelines about how to deal with students in classes who may refuse to wear masks

Response: The task groups will take this up in future meetings.

6. Class attendance policies for the 2020-21 academic year

[UFC proposed class attendance policy statement](#)

We discussed that this is not a policy but rather a recommendation

Comment: Faculty leave is related to this

Response: This is not addressed in this statement, but will continue to be an issue for HR to address.

Support for the statement passed with no abstentions.

7. Possible extension of CR/P-19/NCRT grading to Fall 2020 semester.

We will not address this topic at this meeting, but it is something to be aware may arise in the future.

8. Role of University Police in local law enforcement's coordinated response to Fredericksburg community demonstration activity.

[Independent Review of the 2017 Protest Events In Charlottesville, Virginia](#) for additional background information and context pertinent to discussion

[105 – Jurisdiction and Mutual Aid](#)

Chief of UMW Police Hall offered his report about the response to protests in Fredericksburg. He reported that he is focused on building community, responding to issues as they develop, and improving the work of the police department to work together with the community. There were messages of support for him in the chat box.

V. Resolutions

In support of Black Lives Matter movement, re-commitment to diversity and inclusion, and re-examination of University Police Mutual Aid agreement.

[Full text of resolutions](#) – Prepared and submitted by Kristin Marsh

There was wide support for the resolutions, and the members voted in support of the first two with no abstentions.

There was discussion of the phrasing in the third resolution, particularly around the title and the word “guarantee”—while some wished for stronger language, others felt that a guarantee would not be possible.

The members voted in support of the resolution with no abstentions.

Kristin Marsh will consider the details in the language along with Kim Gower and others who may be interested in contributing to the message.