

University Budget Advisory Committee

Minutes – 5/5/2020 meeting

- Voting members present: Nabil Al-Tikriti (Chair, At-large)
Stephen Davies (Secretary, At-large)
Chris Garcia (COB)
Kyle Schultz (COE)
Suzanne Sumner (At-large)
Abbie Tomba (CAS)
- Voting members absent: Brooke Di Lauro (At-large)
- Non-voting members present: Dana Hall (Athletics, Health & Physical Education)
Christy Pack (Representative from Staff Advisory Council)
- Non-voting members absent: Representative from the Student Government Association
- Guests: Andrew Dolby (incoming UFC Chair)
Paul Messplay (VP Administration & Finance)
Anand Rao (outgoing UFC Chair)

This meeting took place electronically (via Zoom) because of Covid-related restrictions. Summary of discussion:

1. We all wished Dana Hall the best in her retirement, and lamented the sheer quantity of institutional memory she will take with her.
2. We discussed the composition of next year's committee. In particular:
 - (a) Drs. DiLauro and Tomba are rotating off the committee, to be replaced by Dr. Laura Bylenok and Dr. Liane Houghtalin, respectively, next year.
 - (b) Ms. Hall will be replaced on the committee by Mr. Patrick Catullo (Athletic Director) next year.
 - (c) Michelle Pickham is the incoming SAC President, effective July 1, replacing Christy Pack. SAC will choose a UBAC representative for next year.
 - (d) Dr. Al-Tikriti will write Melissa Jones to inquire about a new student representative.
 - (e) The committee will elect a new chair in the fall.
3. Mr. Messplay addressed the group about the recent Covid-related financial strain on the institution:
 - (a) He pointed out that last Wednesday's email from President Paino to the UMW community is the current guiding document. Mr. Messplay said that we seem to have "weathered the storm" somewhat for spring and summer, but there are no guarantees moving forward.
 - (b) So far, the Commonwealth has effectively "punted" the whole state budget situation due to the high degree of uncertainty. The funds that were allocated to UMW in the last legislative session are tied up for the foreseeable future – until authorization is given from someone high in state government, we simply can't spend them.
 - (c) Things will hopefully clear up in September when the state government re-evaluates the whole revenue picture. There are very likely to be some state cuts to Higher Ed, but we don't know how much.
 - (d) On student enrollment side, we expect to lose some students, but again it's impossible

to say how much. Mr. Messplay reasons that out-of-state students especially will be hard to attract through remote instruction. We can also expect that schools throughout the region will be admitting students on their wait lists, and that this will cascade to us. Currently, we are down by about 125 deposits compared to this point last year, although we've extended the deposit deadline to June 1 (instead of the usual May 1) so this isn't truly an apples-to-apples comparison.

- (e) Ms. Hall noted that 20% of the current incoming class are athletes. And since athletes are disproportionately out-of-state students, this could really hurt us.
 - (f) In the past we didn't refund student deposits, but Mr. Messplay said that UMW will do so this year, in order to encourage additional potential students to at least make "tentative" commitments to UMW.
 - (g) In a rare bit of positive news, summer school enrollments are so far looking very strong, and a great improvement from recent years.
 - (h) And in another rare bit of positive news, UMW is not currently being sued by anyone in its student body, as many other Higher Ed institutions are.
4. Dr. Al-Tikriti wondered whether the recently-formed University Covid Task Force would have representation from the faculty. Dr. Rao replied that he and Dr. Dolby, as outgoing/incoming UFC Chair, would be on the Task Force. Also recently added were Ms. Pack, and the Deans from all three colleges. Dr. Al-Tikriti also inquired as to the diversity of the Task Force's membership, and whether an AAUP member was present on it, but Dr. Rao replied that since the Task Force is envisioned as a short-term body (just for the next few weeks) this is probably not an issue that needs to be addressed at present.
5. Ms. Hall told the group that the NCAA recently published a nine-point plan for restarting athletics post-Covid, with a number of benchmarks schools would have to meet in order to be eligible for reopening.
6. Finally, Dr. Al-Tikriti asked the group whether it would be wise for us to meet (over Zoom) at least once or twice during the summer. Several committee members expressed willingness to do this. The committee will rely on Drs. Dolby and Rao to tell us when it might be a good time for us to weigh in, and concerning which specific issues.