# Notes from Faculty Senate of Virginia meeting, 10.23.21, 9-noon, Zoom.

## UMW representatives: Kristin Marsh (UFC Chair); Marcel Rotter (UFC Parliamentarian and Treasurer of UFSVA); Christopher Ryder (UFC CAS Rep)

## In attendance from UMW: Kristin Marsh, Christopher Ryder

## Several items were discussed:

1. Brian Turner reported for AAUP on preparing for ***Virginia Higher Education Advocacy Day (VHEAD)*.** Focus in the fall needs to be on deciding what issues FSVA wants to focus on in outreach efforts. Although much of what we will be able to press and with whom will depend on the elections, it is still important to work toward agenda now, rather than waiting for VHEAD.

FSVA will convene a working group to identify key priorities for full senate to vote on; after elections, will draft a suggested letter. ***UMW faculty should expect outreach from FSVA (and likely from me) encouraging you to contact key delegates.***

This is best done in conjunction with efforts by university administration, as budget priorities in particular, are a common goal. Suggestions for universities: (1) having a UFC member represent faculty to those leading “government relations” efforts (in our case this would be Jeff McClurken and Chris Whyte); (2) governance committee dedicated to government relations, or “state legislative committee.”

[Note: Is this something we need, or is our Budget Advisory Committee the place for these conversations?)

1. ***Tuition reimbursement for employee family members***. We should work in unison to ask our respective Boards (BOV) and admin to prioritize tuition reimbursement (rather than going to the legislature, and rather than working in isolation). The only university in the Commonwealth (that we know of) with tuition reimbursement is ODU. George Mason has asked their BOV to consider the need, based on many factors, including prevalence of tuition waiver programs nationally (which renders VA schools unattractive to potential faculty).

[Note: I later confirmed that UMW tuition waivers apply to current employees only; scholarships are available for children of employees, but no easily accessed info on which scholarships are specifically meant for children of employees. I reached out to Financial Aid for information.

1. ***Other points of discussion:***

high-speed internet access across the Commonwealth;

faculty workloads;

faculty governance at community colleges;

trends across community colleges (growth at Germanna/NOVA, low enrollments elsewhere);

difficulties with SCHEV;

BOV & faculty-senate (in our case, UFC) relations; most universities have representation at BOV meetings; idea of inviting Rector to UFC (if we do this, need clear agenda/questions in mind)

Kmarsh, 10.23.21