

University of Mary Washington

UMW Board of Visitors
Faculty Representative Report
Kristin Marsh, UFC Chair

February 8, 2021

The University Faculty Council (UFC) met on December 1st, 2021 and February 9, 2022. For your information, please find the meeting agenda and minutes linked here:

- UFC [Agenda 12.1.21](#)
and [Meeting Minutes](#)
- UFC [Agenda 2.2.22](#)
and [Draft Meeting Minutes](#)

The next scheduled UFC meeting is Wednesday, March 19, 2022.

At both meetings, we considered and approved several curriculum proposals (ATC designations, new courses, and changes to existing programs), in order for these changes to be included in the academic catalog and go into effect fall 2022.

Other items of business and motions passed by UFC that seem particularly relevant or of interest include:

Faculty Equity Study. As I shared in November, the University Faculty Affairs committee had recommended particular parameters for a Faculty Equity Study. [Our final motion](#) passed in December and the University has been working to identify firms to conduct such a study, to be completed Fall 2022.

WI/SI Requirement for Double Majors. Motion discussed on December 1, and passed on February 2, after receiving input from the University General Education Committee and registrar's office. This action brings implementation of our WI and SI requirements in line with the original intention of our General Education revisions.

Committee Membership and Charges. The University Budget Advisory Committee and the Teaching Center Advisory Committee (TCAC) each requested changes to their membership and charge to bring the Faculty Handbook in line with current practices and with the purpose of the committee. The TCAC will now be an Administrative Advisory Committee in support of the Center for Teaching, rather than a Faculty Advisory reporting to UFC.

Ad hoc Committee to Study January term. UFC received a report from the University Advisory Committee and discussed the need for an inter-unit *Ad hoc Committee* to study pedagogical rationale and other implications of introducing a J-term. UFC passed a motion to convene such a committee with faculty membership (both at-large and representing relevant committees) and University Staff Council (USC) membership. [The motion \(linked here\)](#) passed at our February 2nd meeting, and UFOC is now working to identify at-large faculty members.

Faculty Representation, Presidential Working Group on UMW Vision at 5-year mark. Provost O'Donnell worked with me and Melissa Wells, Chair of UFOC, to identify faculty interested in revisiting our Strategic Vision. Two faculty members were selected to work on each of the four pillars of that vision (Community Engagement, Liberal Learning, Diversity & Inclusion, and impactful learning experiences).

Resolutions of Support and Recognition. At our December meeting, Marcel Rotter offered a resolution of gratitude for Rosemary Arneson, University Librarian, who retired in December. He also offered a resolution against Spotsylvania School Board book banning efforts (and communicated to the School Board). On February 2, Suzanne Sumner offered a resolution in sympathy and grief for the shooting deaths of two of their campus police on February 1, 2022 (and communicated to the President and Provost of Bridgewater College). All three motions passed unanimously.

Welcoming Dr. Shavonne Shorter. UFC invited Dr. Shorter, Chief Diversity Officer and Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, to our February meeting to welcome her and offer our support for her work.

Recognizing that both faculty and staff have been under increasing stress related to overwork, the UFC plans to discuss possibilities for streamlining our governance structure and process. An item of “new business” at our February 2nd meeting, we had to postpone our discussion of this issue. The irony was not lost on anyone, and I commented at the time that I was unwilling to keep UFC past 6:00 in order to discuss overwork. Additionally, faculty remain concerned—as we all are—about declining enrollments at UMW and throughout the Commonwealth. We appreciate the efforts of the President and BOV in advocating for UMW in Richmond.

I welcome any questions or concerns and am happy to elaborate as of interest to members.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Marsh

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