TO: University Faculty Council

FROM: Tim O’Donnell

DATE: March 9, 2022

RE: Interim Provost’s Report

I regret most likely not being able to join with you at today’s meeting. I am off-campus at a SACSCOC reaffirmation of accreditation visit, which is timely given that we are one year away from our own on-site visit (in March 2023). Nicole Crowder has been making very good progress with our Compliance Certification Report (due in September 2022) as has the QEP team (Quality Enhancement Plan) led by Jennifer Walker and Kimberly Young (due in January 2023). Importantly, one of the most helpful things we can do as we prepare for our decennial reaffirmation is to make the sure that the dean’s office has our syllabi from both fall 2021 and spring 2022, that meeting minutes from the UFC committees are posted and that annual assessment reports are completed early in the summer. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

There are several other updates to share:

* **Commencement**. We are on track for a full in-person Commencement ceremony on Ball Circle on May 7th at 9:00 am. The current phase of the construction on Ball Circle is scheduled to be completed at the end of this week with turf restoration beginning toward the end of the month. Other spring activities typically held on Ball Circle will be moved to other venues to support the restoration of the grass.
* **Equity study**. All four firms on state contract submitted proposals by the deadline and a small working group consisting of Eric Bonds, Caitie Finlayson and Debra Schleef are reviewing the proposals. We are scheduled to meet together later this week to review the strengths, weaknesses, and costs of each proposal.
* **Save the dates**. A number of different programs are being planned for the week of May 10-13 by the Center for Teaching, the Office of Equity and Inclusion, and other units on campus. Full details are expected to be shared soon.
* **Faculty awards**. Please consideration making nominations for faculty awards. The details are contained in an email you received by Kyle Schultz, chair of the University Committee on Sabbaticals, Fellowships, and Faculty Awards in February.
* **Admissions update**. By now, the majority of offers that we are going to make to first-time, first-year students have gone out. We are now in yield season. So many of you are doing so much and your efforts are truly appreciated. These efforts truly make a difference. As a reminder, Destination Days are our big events for admitted students and they are scheduled for March 19 and April 23.
* **Board of Visitors**. The Board of Visitor’s met last month for its regular February meeting and the Academic Affairs report prepared for that meeting can be found [here](https://go.boarddocs.com/va/umw/Board.nsf/files/CBMJQ24E35CB/$file/Academic%20Affairs%20Divisional%20Informational%20Report_February%2018%2C%202022.pdf). Board members were particularly enthusiastic about the ways in which colleges and departments support recruitment and retention efforts as well as planning for summer 2022 programming including the Teachers for Tomorrow Summer Institute and the Summer Enrichment Program. They also expressed interest in receiving further information for their consideration about “lab fees.” UMW is one of only three schools among Virginia’s publics that do not charge course fees for courses with significant operational expenses associate with a lab or studio component.

Finally, the conversation that UFC is slated to begin today concerning faculty governance structural changes to streamline approvals, eliminate redundancies and reduce the complexity of our service and governance load is important. I am eager to provide support for this effort.