

TO: University Faculty Council

FROM: Tim O'Donnell, Provost

RE: October Meeting Report

DATE: October 17, 2022

Admissions events: Recruitment of students remains our top priority. We have open houses on Saturday, October 29 and Saturday, November 12. These events are closely followed by two key application dates (Early Decision on November 1 and Early Action on November 15). Thank you for all that you do to recruit students. I can't tell you how many times students and their parents tell me that it was an interaction with a member of our faculty that was critical in their decision to enroll.

Visa Language: Over the past year, the University Faculty Affairs Committee has shared a number of concerns about the visa process and its impact on our faculty. Unfortunately, the global review and approval process has slowed as a result of COVID. And although the Federal Government has made some progress, the backlog is still considerable. UMW does everything possible to make this process easier for faculty. We have assembled these details as well as key contacts which can be found at this [webpage](#).

Equity Study: As of this writing, the firm conducting the faculty equity study is nearing a first draft of preliminary results. We will be working with Dr. Caitie Finlayson (UFAC chair) to review the initial findings and to develop a plan for sharing the results more broadly.

Campus Safety: Earlier this year, UFC requested additional information about campus safety, including guidance and training which could be made available. Any department, unit, or building may reach out to Chief Hall to schedule a training. In addition, Chief plans to work with faculty and staff this year to consider a comprehensive review of all aspects of campus safety, including the safety and security of our buildings. UMW has a trained [threat assessment](#) team (with faculty representation) and all faculty should be familiar with how to report a concern through [Maxient](#) or to contact UMW Public Safety directly (540-654-4444). Additional information and resources are available from the [Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services](#).

Internships: In the current moment where consensus on issues is rare, the value of internships and work-based learning experiences seems to be an outlier. The case for internships can be heard from all directions. Our alumni make the case when they share their stories. Donors make the case when they contribute to the Beyond the Classroom endowment which has seen considerable growth thanks to Dean Mellinger's leadership. We are also hearing it from the business community as well as the legislative and executive branches. There are even [resources available](#) to make this happen, with the prospect of even more down the road. The goal in Virginia is clear: to see that every student who wants to a paid internship is able to secure one. Our task is to make students aware of the importance of these opportunities, to encourage them

to start early, and to provide them with the support to be successful. I encourage you to reach out to Kimberly Young and the Career Center to think through ways that your students and departments can make these connections.

Lab School: Last week, UMW and Stafford County Public Schools (SCPS) submitted an application for a planning grant to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to explore the feasibility of a college partnership lab school in the region. If awarded, UMW, SCPS, and other school districts in the region will receive funds to develop a plan for a public magnet school for 9-12th grades with a focus on coding, cybersecurity, and data science. At this point, this is preliminary and focused on securing funding necessary to explore the concept further. You can learn more about the process and requirements at the VDOE [website](#).

Dahlgren Collaborations: Over the last year, there have been significant gains in UMW's collaboration with the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Dahlgren, collaborations which have been beneficial to both the base and each of our colleges. I am grateful to Dr. John Burrow (former assistant secretary of the Navy and current faculty member in the College of Business) who has facilitated many of these conversations. The Naval Surface Warfare Center at Dahlgren has long been one of our top employers and destinations for internships. Other benefits of collaboration include support for undergraduate research, connections to individuals who can serve as qualified adjuncts, revenue generation through courses and programs, and direct sponsorship of both the Summer Science Institute and the College of Education's makerspace. Collaborations such as these represent an important part of our future.

Upcoming Deadlines: Just a reminder that all curriculum actions for next year's catalog need to be approved by UFC at the January meeting. Even then, if it requires SCHEV approval, it may not make the catalog because that process can take some time. If there are proposals [requiring SCHEV approval](#), please reach out to me directly so that we can plan for such a possibility this fall.