

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Faculty Council

FROM: Troy Paino, President 

DATE: November 28, 2022

RE: President's Report

The November 18th Board of Visitor's (BOV) meeting included a presentation from Dr. Wes Hillyard and Dr. Rita Dunston on how the University identifies and supports students in academic peril. In addition, Dr. Juliette Landphair offered an update on the University's efforts to support students facing mental health challenges. Together, these reports reminded the BOV of the wide array of issues our faculty and staff confront to support our students inside and outside the classroom.

The BOV also approved the 2022-2027 UMW Strategic Vision. It is a continuation of the 2017-2022 vision with a greater focus on fewer action items and measurable outcomes. This document gives the Board a way to monitor our progress in promoting values of service and community and civic engagement, immersing students in applied, impactful learning experiences such as internships and undergraduate research, adapting UMW's liberal arts mission to the knowledge economy and a global digital environment, and creating a diverse and inclusive community. Thanks to everyone who participated in the development of this vision and for providing feedback on earlier drafts. More to come as we develop plans on next steps toward realizing our vision.

The Governor submits his budget to the General Assembly on or before December 15th. This officially kicks off the 2023 legislative session, and I will regularly provide updates to UFC in the weeks and months to come as it relates to UMW's legislative priorities. It is a short session this year, so the General Assembly is scheduled to complete its work by early March.

The Governor continues to prioritize a "campus culture that embraces free inquiry, free speech and freedom of expression." As a public liberal arts university, UMW fully and unequivocally supports free expression and viewpoint diversity on our campus, and we have policies that reflect this commitment. The Administration plans to organize a Free Speech & Inquiry Education Summit in the spring, and I will pass along more details when they become available.

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The Governor is also interested in building stronger bridges and pathways from K-12 to college and careers, prioritizing the well-being of students, faculty, and staff, and better understanding the financial cost of higher education while encouraging each institution “to continue to explore shared services and resources and find efficiencies that will impact” that cost.

We are still working to bring the search for two Cabinet-level positions, the Vice President for Administration & Finance and University General Council, to successful conclusions. I look forward to updating the campus on these searches in the near future.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the December 9th Holiday Gathering. Thank you for all that you do, and please take care of yourself as we bring another semester to a close.