To: University Faculty Council

From: Tim O’Donnell, Provost

Re: November Report to UFC

While it is hard to believe that we’ve reached the last week of classes, I hope you share my strong belief that it has been a very good semester. We’ve witnessed renewed life and activity on campus and in our classrooms. Our admissions events have been filled with eager prospective students and their families. Faculty and student travel to conferences and meetings has returned. There have been many events, programs, competitions and performances to enjoy. Indeed, the list of things to celebrate and be thankful for is long. While the upcoming holidays are welcome, I am equally enthusiastic about our return in January. I wish you a very happy and restful break.

In brief, here are some key updates to close the semester:

* **Honor Council**: I am pleased to share that Wes Hillyard will be adding lead procedural advisor to the Honor Council to his list of responsibilities. He will be assuming responsibility for many of the tasks managed by David Rettinger these past several years. Please join me in thanking him for agreeing to take on this significant responsibility.
* **Alternate terms**: I look forward to the upcoming discussion of alternate terms. The ad-hoc committee has worked tirelessly both last spring and again this fall. They have pursued their charge with great care and thoughtfulness and we should all be grateful for their tireless efforts.
* **Board of Visitors**: At its November 18th meeting, the Board of Visitors received written reports from Academic Affairs, as well as presentations on “Academic Support” and the Quality Enhancement Plan. The department/college [reports](https://go.boarddocs.com/va/umw/Board.nsf/files/CKUPML651E04/%24file/Academic%20Affairs%20Report%20-%20November%202022.pdf) included in the Academic Affairs report were particularly robust this and I encourage you to review them.
* **Admissions and Recruitment**: We have had a very good fall recruitment season with contributions from so many across the university. Whether we were hosting guests on campus or traveling to events across the Virginia and beyond, the enthusiasm that comes with in-person admissions events has definitely returned. Thank you to all who participated this fall as we turn to yield season in the spring.
* **Equity Study**: The firm contracted to conduct the equity study continues to make progress on this significant task. In addition to Caitie Finlayson and Eric Bonds, we have added Bridget Brew who brings additional expertise to the team working on reviewing the analysis and preliminary findings.
* **Data Science**: This fall, UMW successfully navigated the SCHEV’s first stage for institutions seeking to create a new degree program – in this case, a B.S. in Data Science. The Program Announcement, crafted by Stephen Davies and many others, elicited no objection with respect to program duplication from the three other public institutions in Virginia who have established data science programs. I share this to not only say thanks to those who worked hard to bring this forward, but also to invite those thinking about new programs to meet with me, your SCHEV liaison, to plan future programs in what is a multi-stage, nearly two-year approval process.
* **SACSCOC**: Before Thanksgiving we received our report from the off-site peer review team responsible for evaluating our compliance with the 75 standards detailed in the Compliance Certification Report. While there were some findings of noncompliance, the report was quite good. Over the next two months, we will work to address the questions raised by our peer reviewers and provide the evidence necessary to demonstrate compliance. These responses will be detailed in our Focused Report which will be due at the end of January along with our Quality Enhancement Plan in preparation for our upcoming onsite visit in March.