

UFC Meeting
Wednesday, November 30, 2022
Online (via Zoom)

UFC Members Present: Marcel Rotter (CAS, Arts & Humanities, UFC Parliamentarian), Kate Haffey (CAS, Arts & Humanities), Mara Scanlon (CAS, Arts & Humanities), Suzanne Sumner (CAS, Health, PE, & STEM, UFC Vice Chair), Ian Finlayson (CAS, Health, PE, & STEM), Davis Oldham (CAS, Health, PE, & STEM), Eric Gable (CAS, Social Sciences), Mindy Erchull (CAS, Social Sciences), Rachel Graefe-Anderson (COB, UFC Chair), Alex Dunn (COB), Teresa Coffman (COE), Melissa Wells (COE, UFC Co-Secretary), Christy Irish (COE, UFC Co-Secretary), Kristin Marsh (CAS, At-Large, UFC Past-Chair), Patricia Orozco (CAS, At-Large).

Proxies: Alex Dunn (COB) for John Marsh (COB), Mindy Erchull (CAS, Social Sciences) for David Rettinger (CAS, Social Sciences)

Guests: There were approximately 28 people logged into the meeting including Troy Paino (UMW President, UFC Ex-Officio), Tim O'Donnell (UMW Provost, UFC Ex-Officio), Keith Mellinger (Dean CAS), Pete Kelly (Dean COE), and Jeff McClurken (Chief-of-Staff) Michael Benson (chair)

A recording of this meeting can be viewed at <https://ufc.umw.edu/recordings/> (UMW login-required).

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM.
2. The [minutes from the last UFC meeting on October 19](#) were approved with 17 yes votes and 0 abstentions.
3. Reports:
 - a. President Troy Paino submitted a [written report](#).
 - i. President Paino added his appreciation for Kimberly Young and Jennifer Walker's QEP presentation to the BOV.
 - b. Provost Tim O'Donnell submitted a [written report](#).
 - i. A question was raised about the areas of noncompliance. Lack of external personnel (not within the control of UMW) have caused delays in audited financial statements which are required for compliance, but these statements should be easily attainable before the on-campus visit in the spring. Additionally, an area of noncompliance arose in academic affairs regarding faculty qualifications, which will be easily addressed with a policy modification. All other areas of noncompliance will be addressed via a written response. We are in a good position for the on-campus visit in the spring.
 - ii. A question was raised about the implication of upcoming Supreme Court decisions about race in admissions decisions. These two cases are being carefully followed. The National Association of Chief Diversity Officers has offered a series of webinars with guidance for actions until a final

decision is made in June. We will need to be prepared for various outcomes depending on what decision is made.

- c. COE Dean Pete Kelly submitted a [written report](#).
- d. CAS Dean Keith Mellinger submitted a [written report](#).
 - i. Dean Mellinger highlighted the successes of the Office of Advancement for a successful Giving Tuesday, which raised over \$150,000.
- e. COB Dean Ken Machande: No report.
- f. SGA Representative (Joey Zeldin): No report.
- g. USC representative (Charles Tate): No report.
- h. UFC Chair (Rachel Graefe-Anderson) submitted a [written report](#).
- i. UFC Vice Chair (Suzanne Sumner):
 - i. Suzanne Sumner wrote a resolution in support of UVA. It will be addressed during “New Business” in today’s meeting.
- j. Faculty Senate of Virginia (Marcel Rotter): [Minutes from Oct. 22 FSVA Meeting](#)
 - i. Highlights from the document: Jan 12. will be Higher Education Advocacy Day in Richmond (the 12th day of the legislative session). Legislators always like to meet and hear from students, so please invite students to attend.
 - ii. Issues of special concern include access to high-speed internet, especially in rural areas, and changing legislation to allow faculty representation on BOVs, which is optional at the moment (whereas a student representative is currently required).
 - iii. FSV has been active in meetings at various levels, including the Secretary of Education.
 - iv. Discussions addressed changing language in course evaluations to combat bias. UMW will be one of the first universities in VA to implement this language with the Fall 2022 course evaluations.
- k. [JFMC Programming Report](#)
- l. Invited Presentation: Ad Hoc Alternative Terms Committee (Michael Benson, Chair)
 - i. Last year, the committee was charged to investigate options for alternative terms. Faculty received a survey about 3 different proposals before Thanksgiving Break. Conversations with support staff (i.e., library, support desk, Speaking & Writing Center, Provost, and Registrar) yielded the structures of the three proposals. A majority of faculty supported extending contracts by 3 days to allow for a J-term and Saturday graduation, instead of having a contract pause or holding graduation on a Wednesday. The committee has not convened to finalize recommendations based on the survey. Based upon preliminary analysis of survey results, the committee recommends a delayed start. Support staff will not be able to support in December, which means J-term will need to start in January. Commencement would fall one week later than currently scheduled. There are pedagogical benefits of a J-term, in addition to providing unique learning experiences.

ii. Discussion:

1. Did the survey have an option to indicate if a faculty member did not want J term?
 - a. Response: Yes, no preference was an option. In the chat, a comment was made that “no preference” was not the same as being opposed to J-term. Additional commentary confirmed that this was unclear in the survey construction, since there was no question asking if faculty were in favor of J-term or not. Lance Gentry clarified that this question was asked at the beginning of the survey. Several attendees did not recall answering this question. Caution was advised in interpreting data, especially when considering if responses differed based on faculty who did and did not support J-term (since all faculty were asked to choose amongst the 3 models provided, regardless of their overall perceptions of J-term).
 - b. Lance Gentry offered to share data with anyone who wished to see it, noting that a majority of faculty said they were in favor of J-term. In the chat, Lance shared: “Agree with UMW offering a 3-week J-Term that would be optional for faculty and students 60 71.4%; Disagree with UMW offering a 3-week J-Term that would be optional for faculty and students 24 28.6%.”
 - c. Additional questions were asked about how data were analyzed (i.e., by college, preference for/against J-term, interpretation of response rate, etc.). Lance Gentry shared that the committee was not sure exactly how many faculty were at UMW and therefore estimated a 31% response rate based on the knowledge that there are 4,000 students at UMW and a 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio. Provost O’Donnell said his office could provide data on faculty numbers.
2. This plan would require additional days of work without compensation. For example, those teaching a J-term would be compensated for work done during this time (including service work), but other faculty not teaching the J-term who are asked to attend to service roles would be doing service work without compensation. Has this been addressed?
 - a. Response: No, this still needs to be addressed.
3. One UFC representative shared they read the survey as a push survey, where a J-term would be happening regardless of input received. It may have made more sense to determine if a J-term was feasible or not before asking faculty to decide amongst various J-term models.

- a. Response: Michael Benson clarified that today's presentation was not a formal presentation of the committee's recommendations, just a presentation of survey results. Final decisions about an alternative term would need to go through UFC and also the full faculty. The survey was to designed identify areas the committee needed to continue to investigate.
 - 4. One attendee felt ad hoc committees should not be doing this work; it should be the work of existing university committees.
 - a. Response: The alternative semester issue was originally part of the University Academic Affairs Committee, and the ad hoc committee was created because the issue was not able to be properly investigated in this context due to its scope. The ad hoc committee allowed for additional varied stakeholders to be represented who might not have a voice in UAAC. UFOC did a faculty-wide call and followed proper procedures for staffing the ad hoc committee according to the UMW Faculty Handbook.
 - 5. One attendee noted that a 31% response rate doesn't seem to represent the majority of the faculty. Lance Gentry said that a majority of faculty did not seem to care, and a response rate on an online survey of 31% is actually higher than normal. About 2/3 of campus who completed the survey were strongly in favor, 1/3 were strongly opposed, and those in the middle probably didn't do the survey.
 - 6. What would be the impact of this schedule on summer semesters?
 - a. Response: The summer terms would run May 30-August 4.
 - 7. Appreciation for the committee's efforts was expressed.
 - iii. Action: This topic will be tabled for a future meeting, pending an official report and presentation of survey results.
- 4. University Committees: Minutes
 - a. The minutes for the reporting committees are approved with 17 yes votes and 0 abstentions. Links to the committee minutes can be found on the agenda: [UFC Draft Agenda Nov. 30](#).
- 5. University Committees: Action Items
 - a. The action items for the Writing Intensive Committee and Speaking Intensive Committee are approved together with 17 yes votes and 0 abstentions.
 - b. The action items for the FSEM Committee are approved with 17 yes votes and 0 abstentions.
 - c. The action items for the University Curriculum Committee are approved with 17 yes votes and 0 abstentions.

- d. The action items for the University General Education Committee are approved with 17 yes votes and 0 abstentions.
 - e. The action items for the Distance and Blended Learning Committee are approved with 17 yes votes and 0 abstentions.
 - f. Links to the action items can be found on the agenda: [UFC Draft Agenda Nov. 30](#).
6. Unfinished Business
- a. J-Term/Alternative Terms: Survey Results and Recommendations
 - i. Tabled until a future meeting.
 - b. UFOC Update (Melissa Wells, UFOC Co-Chair)
 - i. UFOC is in the process of collecting data from six comparable institutions recommended by Provost O'Donnell: four COPLAC institutions (UNC-Asheville, Minnesota-Morris, SUNY-Geneseo, and Truman State University) and two Virginia institutions (Longwood University and Christopher Newport University). Specifically, comparisons of these universities' compositions of Faculty Senate/Council models, committees, and curricular approval processes are being collected. UFOC has also met with Provost O'Donnell, the Registrars, and CASFC Chair Kate Haffey to gain insights into ways to reduce redundancies in our current structures. UFOC is meeting next week to share results from these inquiries and hopes to be able to share results at the January or February UFC meeting.
 - ii. Discussion
 - 1. What are the minimum committee requirements for each college—curriculum and P&T?
 - a. Provost O'Donnell confirmed that each college needs to have oversight over its own curriculum and P&T processes. There are other areas where streamlining is possible.
 - 2. A January/February update would be ideal to continue discussion. March is the deadline for changes to the Faculty Handbook.
 - 3. Appreciation for UFOC's efforts was expressed.
 - c. Reminder of Curriculum Proposal Deadlines
 - i. January's UFC meeting will be focused on curriculum proposals taking effect in Fall 2023.
7. New Business
- a. Academic Calendar: Tabled for a future meeting.
 - b. Resolution in support of UVA
 - i. Gratitude was expressed to Suzanne Sumner for drafting this. A friendly amendment was made to revise language to focus on identities of students who were killed as student-athletes instead of "football team members." The friendly amendment was accepted.
 - ii. The resolution passed with 15 yes votes. Two members did not record votes.
 - iii. On December 6, President Ryan replied with his appreciation. His message is attached at the bottom of the minutes.
8. Announcements

- a. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the UFC will be **FRIDAY**, January 20 at 3:30 PM (virtual via Zoom).
 - b. A reminder was shared about the importance of timely reporting of UFC agenda items to allow ample time to discuss with constituents prior to UFC meetings.
9. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Wells

Dear Rachel and Suzanne,

Thank you so much for writing and sharing about the UMW Faculty Senate's resolution. Your support means a great deal during this challenging time, and I deeply appreciate your sympathies and hope.

I wish everyone at Mary Washington a peaceful end of the semester and a joyful holiday season.

Thanks again for thinking of us.

Sincerely,

Jim

James E. Ryan
President
University of Virginia