CAS Report to the UFC – January 20, 2023

*Prepared by Dean Keith E. Mellinger*

I apologize for having to miss your first meeting of the spring semester, so I’m providing this written report to update you all on happenings within CAS.

We have four tenure-track faculty searches running this spring. The position in East Asian Politics, in the Department of Political Science and International Affairs, is interviewing candidates this week and next. Chemistry is also starting their on-campus interviews this week. The search in Computer Science should be moving forward with a few interviews in the coming weeks. Finally, a recent resignation has us starting a search in Historic Preservation at this late hour. In addition to these searches, we are hopeful to fill a few visitor positions in Studio Art, Communication, and Political Science, although final approval on the funding for these positions has not yet been granted.

There have been a number of developments in the Music Department that I would like to share with you. First, we have a new interim director of the Eagle Pipe Band. Her name is Olivia Corcoran, and she will be on campus once a week this spring to work with the band. Moving forward, we are exploring ways to strengthen the leadership of the band and increase its footprint. Many of us love the Eagle Pipe Band and the university is committed to supporting it. Second, if you attend UMW Athletic competitions in the Anderson Center, soon you will see the emergence of the Eagle Pep Band. Working with Chair Brooks Kuykendall, the new Eagle Pep Band will be led by Matt Case, our percussionist. Although in its infancy, the hope is to have the band up and running in the next month or so, and we hope to have them playing at competitions later this semester.

CAS will see seven faculty retiring this spring as part of the Faculty Early Retirement Incentive Program (FERIP). While we do not expect those positions to be filled immediately, I am keeping an eye on the curricular impacts of these departures and will be reviewing that with the chairs.

Progress continues on the new theatre and renovation of the fine arts complex. We are still in the schematic design phase. Chairs Stull, McMillan, and Kuykendall have been working steadily with me over the last year to get us to working drawings later this spring.

Assistant Dean Betsy Lewis is again leading our efforts to expand the footprint of our undergraduate research program with a summer institute for the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences ([AHSSSI](https://cas.umw.edu/students/ahsssi/)). The program was immensely successful last summer and we plan to run a program of similar size in summer 2023. Any questions should be directed to Betsy.

After the very successful return of the [Summer Enrichment Program](https://www.umw.edu/summer/sep/) in 2022, we are excited to be offering the program again in Summer 2023. Directors Michael Stebar and Elizabeth Johnson-Young have been hard at work on advertising the program and recruiting faculty and staff to participate as instructors and mentors. Registration will open soon.