

To: University Faculty Council

From: Tim O'Donnell, Provost

Re: Written Report

Date: January 12, 2023

Happy New Year! I hope you had an excellent break and are looking forward to the spring semester. Between now and May 6th when we gather for Commencement, we have much to look forward to as winter gives way to the splendor of spring. Key updates for this month are as follows:

Admissions and Recruitment: At this point applications are pacing last year, with what was an observable increase in early applications likely attributed to enhanced and earlier marketing. The next big filing deadline is February 1. Key yield event dates coming up this spring include:

- Monday, February 20, Open House
- Saturday, March 18, Destination Day
- Friday, April 7, Open House
- Saturday, April 15, Destination Day

Website: By now we have all seen the first phase of our new website. If you have questions or suggestions, please send them to the webmaster@umw.edu. The next phase will focus on academic programs and offices and I expect to be briefed on what that will entail from us in the next couple of weeks. Once that is clear, we'll share with the colleges and departments.

SCHEV/Military Credit: At its January 10th meeting Council approved updates to the guidelines on the awarding of academic credit for military education, training, and experience. This will require review and action by the University Academic Affairs Committee and the UFC to update our [policy](#) so that changes can go to the Board of Visitors in April (to be in effect next year). At a minimum, these changes will require institutions to be transparent in evaluating the awarding of credit and to do so in ways that are most beneficial to the student.

SACSCOC: Over the next few weeks we will be putting the final touches on the Focused Report which responds to the issues raised by the Off-Site Review Committee. The same is true for the QEP document. Thanks to all who have been contributing, especially the General Education Committee and the QEP Team. Both documents will be sent to SACSCOC at the beginning of February so that the visiting team has plenty of time to review before they come to campus March 27-30. We can anticipate that there will be requests to meet with faculty leadership (especially March 28 and 29) that these invitations will trickle in before the Committee's arrival. The On-Site Review Committee selects who they would like to interview and Nicole Crowder

will be the point of contact organizing these interviews. If you hear from her, please make every effort to attend.

Assessment: We do a lot of assessment. There is no question about that. One of the questions raised by our Off-Site Review Committee was about the degree to which we use our assessment results to seek improvements and make changes. The answer is “of course we do” and there is compelling evidence to demonstrate that we do this. Even so, one of the things that Debra Schleef would tell us is that have more data to share than we have forums and places to share it. I’d like for us to think about what it is that we could do to create such spaces to do more of this.

Student Achievement and Success: From time to time I am asked about our retention, completion, and post-graduation success numbers. We are required to publish this information on our website which can be found [here](#).

Library Leadership: Carolyn Parsons has informed me of her intent to retire at the end of the summer. I am grateful for her leadership this past year, especially with respect to the tremendous amount of work necessary for our reaffirmation report. We will be initiating a national search to identify leadership for Simpson Library going forward and I welcome those who might have interest or inclination in serving on the search committee or participating in the visits to let me know.