

UMW Board of Visitors
Faculty Representative Report
Rachel Graefe-Anderson, UFC Chair

February 3, 2023

The University Faculty Council (UFC) held meetings on November 30 and January 20. At the November meeting, UFC members approved meeting minutes from October 19, various curriculum proposals (which can be reviewed through the UFC agenda, to which a link is provided below). The ad hoc committee that was formed during the previous academic year to evaluate semester alternatives, particularly continuation of a J-term, presented the results of a survey that had been distributed to UMW faculty, which was discussed. The committee will submit a final report with recommendations to the UFC during the Spring term. The UFC also passed a resolution in solidarity with the University of Virginia in response to the tragic shooting that took place on November 13.

For your information, please find the November meeting agenda and draft minutes linked here:

- [UFC Agenda November 30, 2022](#)
- [UFC Meeting Minutes November 30, 2022](#)

At the January meeting, minutes from the November meeting were approved as well as additional curricular proposals. The January meeting is notable as the deadline for any new curriculum proposals to be reflected in the upcoming academic year's catalog.

Regarding faculty governance, the University Faculty Organization Committee (UFOC) presented part 1 of its report on improving the structure and function of faculty governance at UMW. The recommendations from the report were focused on improving communication between committees and various other stakeholders and faculty bodies. The recommendations were discussed and several actions put forward. Below are recommendations from the UFOC report. Details on the full discussion can be found in the meeting minutes (linked below).

- Communication Recommendation 1: A renewed commitment to having all materials available for review and discussion amongst UFC members as well as their constituents at least a week prior to UFC meetings would be beneficial.
- Communication Recommendation 2: In addition to maintaining a digital archive on the UFC website, the UFC Secretary could directly email draft minutes to the entire campus community within one week of a UFC meeting.
- Communication Recommendation 3: UFOC recommends that CAS Faculty Council devise a plan for communication (i.e., could each representative communicate with specific departments before/after each UFC meeting?). UFOC maintains an email list by division for distributing ballots that could be shared with CAS UFC members to facilitate communication with their specific constituents. In addition, reminders about communication expectations could be added to the UFC Organizational meeting in August.
- Communication Recommendation 4: Additional feedback on methods to streamline communication should be solicited from members of the campus community.

- Curriculum Approval Process Recommendation: UFOC recommends that UFC ask the Provost and Registrars, possibly in partnership with UCC, to investigate a process that preserves the integrity of UMW's curricular approval process while reducing redundancies in the process. Particular attention should be given to the role of CAS Faculty Council in approving curriculum proposals.

The UFC also discussed modality of meetings for the remainder of the year. Meeting virtually (over zoom) has the benefit of broadening access to the full faculty, some of whom would not be able to attend face-to-face meetings. On the other hand, many faculty felt that a face-to-face modality is preferable. It was decided that a poll would be taken regarding moving the modality to in-person for the final UFC meeting of the year in April.

For your information, please find the January meeting agenda and draft minutes here:

- [UFC Agenda January 20, 2023](#)
- [UFC DRAFT Meeting Minutes January 20, 2023](#)

The ad hoc committee on J-term is expected to have its report ready for review by faculty in time for the UFC meeting in March.

The next scheduled UFC meeting is February 15, 2023.

I welcome questions on these and other topics of faculty governance concern. As UFC Chair, I am grateful for the open lines of communication that both the BOV and Administration work hard to maintain.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Graefe-Anderson, Associate Professor of Finance
Chair, University Faculty Council