

UMW Board of Visitors
Faculty Representative Report
September 20th, 2024
Davis Oldham, UFC Chair

The UFC met for its last meeting of the 2023-2024 academic year on April 17th. Draft minutes are available on the [UFC website](#). President Paino provided an update to the faculty on admissions numbers, which were uncertain given issues with FAFSA. Provost O'Donnell initiated an advisory group to make updates to the handbook, focusing on grammar, formatting, institutional changes, and streamlining faculty governance.

The faculty discussed some issues that would likely play an integral role in revisions to the handbook and the continuing efforts to reorganize academic programs and departments within each college. In particular, members of UFC largely supported a move to one promotion and tenure committee.

At the opening meeting on August 20th, UFC formally approved the election of officers. Davis Oldham will serve as chair, Melina Patterson will serve as vice chair, Karen Anewalt will serve as secretary, and April Wynn will serve as parliamentarian. Patricia Orozco will represent UMW in the Faculty Senate of Virginia.

UFC met additionally on August 23rd with members of the handbook advisory group, who summarized their proposed changes to the handbook. Changes to the handbook will happen in several phases. We hope to approve simple grammar and organization changes at the September 18th UFC meeting. Having a cleaner handbook will make it easier to incorporate recommended changes to faculty governance by the end of the semester. Many of the committees have been tasked with reviewing their charges and whether or not they can be combined with other committees. These changes will likely be approved at the November UFC meeting.

The UFC meeting schedule is available on the [UFC website](#). Our next meeting will be September 18th at 3:30 pm. One of the times the UFC will be discussing will be the composition of the faculty governing body. The report from UFOC in 2022, the handbook advisory group, and informal feedback from faculty all express interest in restructuring UFC to be a faculty senate in which each academic department has a representative.

Respectfully submitted,
Davis Oldham, UFC chair