

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** University Faculty Council

**FROM:** Troy Paino, President 

**DATE:** February 6, 2025

**RE:** President's Report

Things are moving quickly, so much will change by the time we meet on February 19<sup>th</sup>. With that caveat, I will update you on three matters: 1) Virginia legislative session, 2) Washington DC activity, 3) 2025-26 Enrollment.

### Virginia Legislative Session

House and Senate budgets “crossed over” on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. A few highlights from each budget:

#### *House Budget*

- \$500,000 for FY25 and \$740,000 for FY26 to help UMW with startup costs associated with a new MSN program.
- \$786,900 in “affordability” funding to help universities keep tuition as low as possible.
- 3% across-the-board salary increase, 1% one-time bonus, and 6% increase costs for health insurance. The Commonwealth covers roughly half of these costs.
- Reinstates minimum wage stairsteps to \$13.50 an hour on January 1, 2026, and \$15 an hour on January 1, 2027.
- \$4.35 million to UMW for energy efficiency projects.
- Restores funding to universities for Tech Talent initiative that had been removed.

#### *Senate Budget*

- \$990,000 to support operations and investments in new programs related to workforce shortages.
- \$234,000 for student financial aid.
- \$3.5 million for new UMW ERP.
- 3% across-the-board salary increases, 1.5% one-time bonus, and 6% increase cost for health insurance. Again, UMW must cover approximately half the cost of these increases.

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- \$4.35 million for UMW energy efficiency projects.
- Restores funding for Tech Talent initiative that had been removed.

The budgets are now in conference, and session is slated to end on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Washington DC

Anyone following the news knows a lot has occurred since the inauguration of President Trump. We continue to follow the various Executive Orders as well as the Administration's efforts to downsize the federal government, but to date there are more questions than answers as to how these actions might impact UMW. Because it is a quickly evolving situation and we continue to seek legal guidance, it is best to address your questions and concerns at the meeting. We will likely be in a very different place on February 19<sup>th</sup> than where we are as I write this report.

#### Enrollment

We are up in applications in all categories: First-year, transfer, and graduate. However, it is uncertain whether this increase reflects an increase in interest. We currently lag in deposits, but it is still early, and the admission's team is working hard to get offers out the door. They were delayed somewhat by the recent move from Lee Hall to the Link between Randolph and Mason.

March and April are critically important months when many admitted students visit campus. In particular, please mark our upcoming Destination Days on your calendar: March 15<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup>.

I am happy to try and answer any questions at the meeting.