

To: University Faculty Council

From: Tim O'Donnell, Provost

Re: Updates, February 2025

Date: February 6, 2025

We are at the mid-way point of the semester, with all of the promise and anticipation of spring and the celebrations that mark the last quarter of our academic year just ahead.

I encourage you to review the Academic Affairs Board of Visitors Report for additional information and updates from several offices and units across campus. It should be posted around the 14th of February. I especially encourage you read about all that has been accomplished with the Gwen Hale Resource Center.

A few updates:

- (1) We anticipate sending proposals for two schools (Science and Art) to SCHEV during the March window for submissions. You'll recall that SCHEV has taken each piece of our overall proposal for the new organizational structure and broken it down into individual pieces with individual proposals taken a few at a time.
- (2) The President has shared admissions information. Please do keep in mind the important yield events that are coming up, including Destination Days in March and April. Yielding a class takes all of us. Our comparative advantage continues to be the kinds of individual conversations we offer at these events.
- (3) There is some good news on the Fulbright (3 semi-finalists) and Goldwater (4 nominees submitted) fronts. Even though these aren't final results, getting to this stage is still cause for celebration. Congratulations to all involved in supporting these students during their UMW journey and thank you especially to Dianne Baker, Nabil Al-Tikriti, Kelli Slunt, Leanna Giancarlo, Swati Agrawal, Ginny Morris, Prashant Chandrasekar, and Varun Makhija.
- (4) Faculty involvement with opportunities to explore the challenges and opportunities of AI in teaching and learning continues to impress. Workshop and lab sessions indicate robust interest and engagement. 44 of our colleagues are participating in the AI Learning Excellence Grants this semester. And several (Maya Mathur, Krystyn Moon, Michael Reno, and Scott Powers) working on the NEH grant this spring, are bringing their important projects across the finish line.