

UMW BOV
University Faculty Council Chair's Report
September 4, 2025

The UFC met in on April 16, 2025. Minutes from the March UFC meeting were approved, with one minor emendation. Minutes can be found on the [UFC website](#).

President Paino provided an update from the most recent Board meeting, including information on tuition and fees and room and board for 2025-26. In response to questions, he outlined the current state of the conversation on developing new programs in allied health fields and on the proposed medical school. In response to questions, he addressed the context in which the administration regulates the presence on campus of people unaffiliated with the university and the rules around chalking on campus. He further clarified when and how the administration communicated with students and others about tenting on campus and the charges that ensued (and were eventually dropped).

Provost O'Donnell addressed the implementation of new federal regulations which require that monetary prizes and awards be counted as financial aid. He also addressed funding to support the Master's degree in AI and Business. He indicated that the Masters in Nursing is now filed with SCHEV and we await next steps. He noted that we may need to reform our program approval process, to streamline the process and better meet SCHEV's expectations. He offered a quick overview of campus construction timelines. In response to a question about changes in Chair compensation, he suggested that Deans are making these decisions, allocating available funds to both administration of the newly organized colleges and to department chairs.

CAS Dean Mellinger addressed the upcoming Research and Creativity Day. In response to a question about changing Chair compensation, he shared information about a comparative survey conducted by the Budget Advisory Committee that led him to think about different ways of compensating chairs, one of which is to compensate with a stipend for the 9-month academic year and add an extra increment of compensation for Chairs who choose to work over the summer (or for someone else from the department who might substitute for the Chair). He is still refining the compensation model that will be used beyond 2025-26. He noted that he had not changed anything about the course release associated with chairing a department, because he has heard from several people that time is the most valuable form of compensation.

COB Dean Tabak and COE Dean Kelly submitted written reports.

All Committee minutes were approved.

Under New Business, there was discussion of the election of officers for 2025-26, which is supposed to be completed within 30 days of electing UFC members. It was noted that there is no longer a single election, since departments now elect representatives, and they have done so, in this initial year, on their own schedules. It was also noted that new members aren't yet

officially members until August 15, raising the question of whether they can even vote yet. While the 2024-25 Handbook is clear that the election of officers should take place after new members are elected, it is not altogether clear about who votes. The 2025-26 Handbook, pending Board approval at the time of this meeting, does resolve this issue: the newly elected members will elect their new Chair. The Provost stressed the importance of determining who is acting as Chair over the summer: the outgoing or incoming Chair. The Handbook makes it clear that new officers don't begin their role until August 15. Jonathan Levin volunteered to be a candidate for Chair in 2025-26. No other candidates for any of the positions (the others being Vice Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian) were nominated. It was suggested that we set a date by which all department representatives to UFC are elected, so that we can move forward with the other committee appointments/elections and the UFC election of new officers. If we state election of the next year's UFC membership must be completed by departments by April 1, then UFC representatives would be elected in the March department meetings and UFC officers could then be elected at the April UFC meeting (with new members invited to attend). The new Handbook is clear that the new members vote to elect the new officers.

UFC approved the new Master's of Science in AI and Business as well as revisions to the Contemplative Studies minor.

UFC approved changes proposed by the Academic Affairs Committee allowing all students to declare majors at any time after completion of the spring registration period in their first semester.

UFC approved changes to the Community Engagement designation requirements to require fewer CE hours and also to use the term "beyond the classroom experience" rather than "out of class experience," in keeping with the current Gen Ed terminology.

UFC held its 2025-26 organizational meeting on August 21. The meeting included several committee chairs and most of the now 28 members of the Council (up from 18). New officers were elected: Jonathan Levin (Chair), Miriam Liss (Vice Chair), Michael Reno (Secretary), and April Wynn (Parliamentarian). Suzanne Sumner also volunteered to serve as UFC representative on the University Curriculum Committee.

The Provost talked about his priorities for the year. He noted that the new Handbook had been approved by the Board with only a few changes, which he outlined. He also discussed the Handbook issues pertaining to Tenure & Promotion, discussed below.

Jonathan noted that beyond all the usual business transacted by UFC, there will be two major issues that this year's UFC will aim to resolve. First, we have yet to determine 1) if we're going to maintain three separate college Promotion & Tenure Committees or merge them into one; 2) whether we can clarify criteria for promotion and tenure found in Section 7; and 3) whether that critical information can be cast in such a way that one set of descriptions of criteria for promotion in each of the three areas of review will suffice for all three colleges. The University Faculty Affairs Committee, in keeping with their charge, will develop a proposal to bring to UFC.

Second, we still need to determine if we need three separate Curriculum committees plus the University Curriculum Committee, or whether we should move to just one University Curriculum Committee (which would be fed proposals from departments from all three colleges) or whether we still need separate committees for each of the three colleges, but perhaps without the University Curriculum Committee (in which case, UFC would play the role currently played by the University Curriculum Committee). These issues will be addressed by the college curriculum committees and the University Curriculum Committee. Because of the timeline, we will aim to bring proposals to UFC no later than the October meeting.

The UFC schedule is available on the [UFC website](#). Our next meeting will be on September 17 at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Levin
Professor of English
Chair, English & Linguistics
2025-26 University Faculty Council Chair