

**College Faculty Council – Student Affairs Subcommittee (UFC Student Affairs & Campus Life Advisory Committee)**

**Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2025**

**Committee Members and Student Representatives Present:**

- Ashe Laughlin, Assistant Professor of Painting and Drawing (Chair of Committee)
- Melissa Jones, Dean of Students/Associate VP for Student Affairs (ex officio)
- Mike Walsh, Vice President for Student Affairs (ex officio)
- Randall Reif, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Physics (Committee Member)
- Sushma Subramanian, Associate Professor of Communication & Digital Studies (Committee Member)
- Antonia Delgado-Poust, Associate Professor of Spanish, Modern Languages & Literatures (Committee Member, Co-Secretary)
- Sarah Morealli, Senior Lecturer of Earth & Environmental Sciences (Committee Member, Co-Secretary)
- Maya Schram, Conservation Biology (Student Representative)

**1. Discussion of Faculty Handbook Language Revision**

- The committee edited the Handbook entry to **omit**:
  - References to the Fredericksburg campus, as this seemed redundant.
  - The sentence indicating that student representatives will *typically be undergraduates*, along with the clause about *revisiting this expectation as graduate enrollment grows*.
- Sarah and Ashe will potentially draft the revised language and coordinate with Jonathan at UFC. Ashe will be present to provide clarification as needed.

**2. Input from VP for Student Affairs, Mike Walsh**

Mike Walsh suggested that the Subcommittee’s work could align with the **President’s Strategic Priorities**, particularly:

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Committee Role</b>
<b>1. Enhancing UMW’s liberal arts curriculum</b>	Academic mission	Consider intersections with student life experiences.
<b>2. Student engagement, student life, and school pride</b> ( <i>Primary focus for committee</i> )	Campus vibrancy	Develop proposals for improving student belonging, events, and traditions.
<b>4. Meeting workforce needs of Virginia and beyond</b>	Internship/career preparation	Understand student expectations and align with support services.

- VP Walsh recommended stakeholder engagement with both faculty and students.
- He asked the committee to develop actionable ideas for Priority #2—including potential funding and staffing plans—by January.

- He also noted the importance of educating faculty on how Student Affairs can support their work and invited the Subcommittee to advise on how best to facilitate that.

### 3. Future Guests / Discussion Topics

As a group, we discussed the following:

- Possible return visit from Chief Hall to provide more detailed information on campus policing practices.
- The possibility of inviting the new Director of the Talley Center to speak with us.
- Review student safety messaging, including inconsistent guidance regarding fountain traditions.
- Consider referencing data from the 2023 Campus Climate & Safety Perception Survey.

### 4. Campus Life Topics Raised for Future Consideration

- **Evening/Weekend Student Programming:** Melissa’s office has expanded offerings on Thursday–Saturday nights to promote belonging.
- **Mental Health / Stress Relief Initiatives:** Continue support for “unwind” programming during finals (therapy dogs, evening events at HCC).
- **ODR Enrollment Data:** Identify how many students are registered with the Office of Disability Resources—and how many potentially qualify but are not connected.
- **Gwen Hale Resource Center / Community Engagement Opportunities:** Explore collaboration, particularly as access to resources may be lower than before and food insecurity may be higher. We want to see how to better support the Resource Center and our students/staff.
- **Basic Needs & Financial Insecurity:** Housing insecurity and access to aid, whether this be for purchasing textbooks, or for other reasons. Discuss:
  - **Base Needs Survey results**
  - **Donor/Foundation support**
  - **Cedric Rucker SOS Fund** for emergency aid.
- **Communication Strategy:** Determine how best to share Subcommittee findings with the wider faculty (reporting structure, digital distribution, standing announcements, etc.).
- **Subcommittee Advisory Board Website:** Potential platform for transparency.

### 5. Outstanding Questions

- How can we better inform faculty about student-facing issues?
- How should reporting from this committee be communicated publicly or internally?

### 6. Action Items / Next Steps

- Finalize and submit revised Faculty Handbook language.
- Begin drafting Priority #2 proposals for student engagement and campus pride.
- Identify relevant data sources (ODR statistics, climate surveys, basic needs data).
- Decide on future invited speakers (e.g., Chief Hall).

[Meeting concluded at 5:03 p.m.— motion to approve minutes pending completion]

