

## Minutes

### University Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

Monday November, 10, 2025

In attendance: Theres Grana (Chair, CAS), Alex Honold (COE), Varun Makhija (CAS), & Holly Schiffrin (Secretary, CAS).

Ex-Officio: Debra Schleef (Assoc. Provost), Melissa Yakabouski (VP enrollment management). & Wes Hilliard (Provost for Academic Engagement and Student Success)

The meeting was called to order at 3:18pm.

The minutes from the prior meeting were approved previously by e-mail and will be submitted to the UFC.

#### Old Business – Integrity of online quizzes/exams

- Theresa spoke to colleagues at other schools and has a friend who uses a program called Honor Lock that will freeze the student's assessment if they are doing something suspicious and notify her to contact the student. It is part of the course approval process to have a mechanism for monitoring online exams. Maybe someone could pilot this system here to see how it works (e.g., the faculty member who raised the concern).
- Varun said we need to understand issues Jerry raised about the possibility of false positives because the rates seemed higher than he was comfortable with to recommend implementing exam monitoring software. He suggested sending an e-mail to department chairs to have them discuss the issue at the next department meeting.
- Wes summarized his previous discussion with the honor council indicating that they were generally supportive of honor awareness, but didn't specifically endorse monitoring online assessments. They expressed some concern that it would undermine the system of trust we try to establish at UMW with the honor system. However, they also acknowledged that we don't have the peer-to-peer accountability associated with an in-person exam when testing online. The honor council has generally been wary of AI detection tools because of false positives, but recognize other schools are using them. We will continue to engage with honor council to get them to weigh in on this issue.
- The committee suggested surveying the faculty to discern the level of concern and interest.

#### New Business – Retaking a course and doing worse the second time

- A faculty member emailed the chair and expressed concern over whether it is clear to students that they have to keep the second grade when they retake a course even if it's worse and wondered if this policy was too punitive. They asked the committee to consider if students should be allowed to keep the higher of the two grades if they do worse the second time.
- The committee's discussion supported the current policy for several reasons (1) they are taking a seat away from another student and they might not try their best if they know they can keep the previous grade and (2) if they do worse the second time, they haven't mastered the material in the course and their grade should reflect that. The committee suggested better communication with faculty and students about the policy (e.g., encourage faculty to advise

their students/advises to withdraw from a course they are repeating if they have a U at the mid-term).

- Holly moved that we leave policy as is. Theresa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcement : Check Spring schedules for meeting time. Proposed time to meet is 3:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45