

**UFC Report
January 2026
College of Business (COB)
University of Mary Washington**

COB Executive Advisory Board

COB Executive Advisory Board held its second meeting of the year on Dec 4th, 2025, at 2PM. The agenda focused on core business accredited curriculum and board feedback on technology and AI integration in curriculum. A new board committee was formed to plan for 2026 COB Alumni Awards in collaboration with the UMW Alumni Office. Also, Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF) class under the direction of Professor Graefe-Anderson provided an overview of their stock selection process to the board.

Eagle Egg Innovation Fund

The Eagle Egg Innovation Fund is a newly launched initiative of the University of Mary Washington's College of Business, established to create a structured, sustainable pathway for undergraduate innovation and entrepreneurship. The Fund supports student ideas from early concept through venture validation and is open to all full-time UMW students across disciplines. Individuals or teams of up to five submit a short pitch deck during the Idea Submission phase (Jan–Feb 2026), from which four teams will be selected to receive \$500 Concept Awards, faculty and industry mentorship, and the opportunity to present at Eagle Innovation Pitch Day. The program emphasizes cross-disciplinary collaboration, team formation, and experiential learning, supported by coordinated outreach across faculty, student organizations, marketing channels, and research partnerships

The initiative was launched with a \$25,000 founding gift from an alumnus and advisory board member, Bryan Eckle, with the shared vision that the fund will continue to grow as additional supporters join the effort.

Teams are evaluated using criteria of innovation, feasibility, market impact, and execution, and must meet milestone-based progress requirements to advance. Following the concept phase, two teams may move toward prototype development, and one team ultimately receives a \$10,000 seed investment. Finalists will showcase their work at UMW Research and Creativity Day for investors, alumni, students, and faculty. Operating on an annual cycle with plans for expansion, rolling submissions, and a standing review board, the Eagle Egg Innovation Fund reflects the new College of Business's commitment to embedding entrepreneurship, innovation, and experiential learning as a permanent and scalable pillar of the College's academic and engagement mission.