

To: University Faculty Council

From: Tim O'Donnell, Provost

Date: January 19, 2026

Welcome to the spring semester!

Here are three resources you may find useful this semester:

- Title II resources: The Accessibility Work Group has prepared useful information and resources available on the UMW [website \(https://in.umw.edu/accessibility-group/\)](https://in.umw.edu/accessibility-group/). All courses must be compliant with digital accessibility standards by the end of April (which means summer and fall courses will need to demonstrate compliance).
- Enterprise AI Tools: Faculty should email Anand Rao (arao@umw.edu) if you are interested in being an early adopter.
- Strategic Action Plan [feedback form](#). The campus community received the first complete draft of the plan via campus email from Amy Jesse on January 14, 2026 and feedback is encouraged.

Updates from SCHEV: SCHEV has changed the approach to organizational names and has returned our proposals. They now must be approved by Boards which means we will now be bringing proposals to the board in February for a resubmission to SCHEV in March.

MSN Program: As you know, the program was approved by SCHEV and SACSCOC in the fall. We have hired an interim director (Elizabeth Ritt) with extensive experience in nursing program accreditation and building graduate programs. Recruitment and preliminary accreditation work is underway with the first class set to enroll in fall 2026. The search for the permanent director will begin soon and coincide with the hiring of the Dean of the College of Education and Human Development.

Dean Search: The Search committee has completed screening and is in the process of selecting finalists with the goal of on-campus interviews in early February. Further details will be shared by search committee chair, Keith Mellinger, when the plans for campus visits are finalized.

Bookstore: As President Paino shared in his campus address last week, we will have a new bookstore operator heading in to the next academic year. I have been told that the process for ordering course materials for the summer and fall will remain as it has been and that we will be receiving additional details as the implementation begins in the coming weeks.