



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

Senate Snapshot

Faculty Senate Meeting – Feb. 29, 2024

Did You Know... Faculty Senators receive electronic copies of Memoranda of Action in advance of the MOA being presented for a vote on the floor of the Senate. Senators are charged with sharing the MOA information with their units and soliciting feedback and questions pertaining to the MOA. For more on MOAs [linked here](#).

Remarks from Faculty Senate President Sarah Summy

- **GENERAL ELECTION:** Amy Naugle and Dennis Simpson were elected as the next Faculty Senate President and Vice President, respectively. Other Senate election results have been notified to those individuals. All current and newly elected Senators should attend the May 9 meeting.
- **ONLINE EDUCATION:** WMU is undertaking a comprehensive internal review of its online education system. This review will include instructor and student surveys expected to go out later this semester. Questions should be directed to [Arnold Taylor](#).
- **FACULTY FEES:** Please support the Faculty Senate by paying your annual voluntary \$25 faculty fee. Faculty are encouraged to make contributions online:
 - By [credit card](#).
 - Authorized one-time [payroll deduction](#).

Remarks from WMU President Edward Montgomery

- **STATE BUDGET:** WMU will not receive details of the state budget until the House has settled its outstanding elections. Advocacy for WMU in Lansing is ongoing.
- **EXPERIENCE DRIVEN LEARNING WEBPAGE:** Earlier this week, the [22](#)

[recipients](#) of the first Experience-Driven Learning venture grants were unveiled.

- **DUNBAR HALL REOPENING:** Dunbar Hall is on the cusp of [reopening](#). The official unveiling Grand Opening is scheduled for 25 April, following the April Board of Trustees meeting.
- **CONSORTIUM GRANT:** WMU recently joined forces with Michigan's other leading universities to establish the [Michigan University Innovation Capital Fund and Michigan University Innovation Capital Consortium](#). With a \$5 million award is an effort spur the creation of new startups and ventures.

Remarks from Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Julian Vasquez Heilig

- **GRATITUDE GRAMS:** Nearly 3,000 postcards were requested by faculty and staff who gave them in a show of appreciation and gratitude.
- **SEARCH UPDATES:** There are four senior-level [searches in process](#)
 - Dean of the College of Health and Human Services
 - Dean of Merze Tate College
 - Director of the Louis Walker Institute
 - Director of Academic Labor Relations-David Thorne resigned. Christopher Cheatham, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, has assumed the duties of the position. The position is currently posted, and the review of applications will commence in mid-March
- **DENVER RECRUITMENT:** A pregame student recruitment event was held in advance of WMU's matchup against the University of Denver. The well-attended event was followed by a dominant performance by the away team.
- **GRADUATE MARKETING GRANTS:** \$10 thousand awards to fund [graduate programs' marketing](#) efforts are available through the Graduate College.
- **ACES CLUB:** Students who earned a 4.0 in fall 2023 were invited to the first-ever Aces Club reception. This program is a result of a contest held in spring 2022 designed to elevate students' ideas for increasing engagement at WMU.

- **ACCREDITATION:** Congratulations to the Hayward College of Business, which received its renewal of accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International.

Informational Items

- **MEMORANDUM OF ACTION:**
 - [MOA-24/01](#): Unaffiliated Units Curriculum Committee Creation was passed.
 - [MOA-24/02](#): Faculty Research Travel Fund Distribution Process was returned to the Research Policies Council for further review. As a result, and pursuant to AAUP Agreement-Article 34, the RPC must adhere to procedures defined in [MOA-03/10](#) to distribute FRTF for the 2024-25 fiscal year.
- **ACADEMIC AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL:** Timothy Broadwater, chair of the AITC, provided an update on the council's activities.
- **OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES:** Associate Dean for Resources and Digital Strategies, Paul Gallagher and Michele Behr, Scholarly Communication and Open Education Resources Librarian [presented an update](#) on the University Libraries Open Educational Resources.
- **ANNUAL ATHLETIC BOARD REPORT:** Luchara Wallace, chair of the Athletic Board provided the [annual report](#).

These notes are informal communications provided as a convenience for Senators and others to communicate with their constituencies in a timely fashion. They are not intended as a substitute for meeting minutes and hold no more value, or standing, other than as an individual's recollection of events.