



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

Senate Snapshot

Faculty Senate Meeting – April 4, 2024

Did You Know... Giving Day is an annual WMU event of giving by the Bronco community. You can donate directly to the Faculty Senate to support a faculty voice in aspects of academic governance. Please consider giving to the [WMU Faculty Senate](#).

Giving Day is April 17, 2024!

Remarks from Faculty Senate President Sarah Summy

- [Fallen Broncos](#): the ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. in the Fetzer Center atrium on April 12 to honor the lives of students, faculty, and staff who have passed away while active members of the University community.
- After 23 years of service to the WMU Faculty Senate, John Jellies was recognized with a Faculty Senate Resolution in advance of his retirement.
- Thanks to many faculty who are completing service appointments to the Faculty Senate and its councils and committees. If you are interested in serving, please contact the [Faculty Senate](#) office.

Remarks from WMU President Edward Montgomery

- [Commencement](#): will take place in Miller Auditorium on Saturday, April 27; there will be 2,100 students from 39 different countries receiving their degrees.
- [Experience Driven Learning Venture Grants](#): a celebration to recognize the recipients of the Experience Driven Learning Venture Grants will be held from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in the Student Center ballroom on Tuesday, April 9. [Research, Innovation and Creative Scholarship Celebration Week](#): runs from April 4

through April 14. Faculty and staff from across the University have worked to develop these events, so please attend something that interests you.

- **College of Aviation:** the arrival of the first two of 32 Cirrus Aircraft training planes will be celebrated at the College of Aviation in Battle Creek Friday, April 12.

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

- **Rising Average GPA:** The average GPA of enrolled first-year students at Western has been rising for the past six years, from 3.4 in 2017 to 3.54 in 2023. This increase signifies a positive trend in the academic readiness of incoming students.
- **[Grow Your Own](#):** The Grow Your Own program in the College of Education and Human Development is funded by the Michigan Department of Education. Grow Your Own seeks to address the teacher shortage in the state.

Informational Items

- **[Graduate Studies Council](#):** Jennifer Fiore, vice chair of GSC, provided an update on the council's activities.
- General Counsel Keith Hahn provided the Annual Email Access report.
- Melissa Powers, president of the Western Student Association, provided an annual WSA 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.