



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

Senate Snapshot

Faculty Senate Meeting – March 5, 2026

Did You Know... Much of the work of the faculty senate is completed by its councils.

There are six councils: Academic & Information Technology, Campus Planning & Finance, Graduate Studies, International Education, Research and Creative Scholarship, and Undergraduate Education. You can learn more [at the link](#).

Remarks from Faculty Senate President Amy Naugle

- President Naugle announced the election of Janet Hahn as Faculty Senate President and David Rudge as Vice President beginning May 1, 2026.
- The Academic and Information Technology Council is preparing a report on faculty preferences for virtual meeting platforms and exploring initiatives related to artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.
- The Graduate Studies Council is developing practical guidance on the use of artificial intelligence in graduate education and research.
- The Professional Concerns Committee emphasized the importance of [formally reporting academic dishonesty](#) through the goWMU process to ensure consistency, institutional documentation, and equitable treatment of students.
- The WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee established a streamlined review process to help advisors more efficiently approve Essential Studies equivalencies for transfer students.

Remarks from Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Christopher Cheatham

- Interim Provost Cheatham emphasized that faculty teaching, mentorship, research, and creative activity are central to academic excellence and highlighted

efforts to better communicate program strengths to prospective students. He encouraged faculty participation in the [Navigator Network](#) by submitting first-work and midterm grades to support advising and early student intervention.

- Cheatham noted improvements in the University's six-year graduation rate but stressed the need to improve four-year completion rates and announced that course schedules will be visible two years in advance to assist academic planning.
- He reaffirmed the institutional commitment to [Experience-Driven Learning](#) (EDL) and acknowledged collaboration with Faculty Senate leadership and the EDL committee.
- An [enrollment update](#) indicated undergraduate applications are up 3.7 percent, while freshman confirmations are currently [below last year's levels](#).

University Strategic Plan

- Comments were provided by Faculty Senate and University leadership regarding this month's focus area [Academic Excellence](#).

Action Items

- [MOA-26/04](#) was approved

Informational Items

- Interim Vice President for [Advancement and Development](#), Kahler Schuemann, provided the annual advancement report.
- Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate [Undergraduate Studies Council](#), David Karowe, provided an update on the council's activities.
- Chair of the Faculty Senate [Graduate Studies Council](#), Marcellis Zondag, provided an update on the council's activities.
- Alyssa Moon, Director of Instructional Design and Development, and Wendy Swalla, Senior Instructional Designer, provided an update on [Experience Driven Learning](#) initiatives.
- Tomika Griffin-Brown, Assistant Dean of Academic Advising, Merze Tate College provided the [Advising's Contribution to Student Success](#).

- Chair of the [Faculty Athletics Representative](#), Gary Bischof, provided its 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.