



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

Senate Snapshot

Faculty Senate March 4, 2021, Virtual Meeting

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 than an individual's recollection of events.

Remarks from Faculty Senate President Marilyn Kritzman

- **HONORS:** Richard Gershon and Mervyn Elliott received Faculty Senate Resolutions honoring their service to WMU
- **TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION IS COMING:** The Executive Board agreed to support the Academic and Information Technology Council's recommendation from the Office of Information Technology to require two-factor authentication for all WMU employees
- **CIVILITY AT WMU:** To guide efforts and appreciate the meaning and practical applications of civil discourse and to strive to advance the Academy, the Faculty Senate approved a general aspirational statement related to civility. Find the [full statement here](#).
- **APPRAISAL OF THE PROVOST:** The 2021 WMU Faculty Senate Appraisal of the Provost concluded. The response rate of the appraisal was 33.3% or 279 out of a possible 840 respondents. Past practice of the Faculty Senate has been to present only the two summative questions within the survey, questions 16 and 17. At the request of Provost Bott the results that were displayed included all quantitative data at [this link](#).

Remarks from WMU President Edward Montgomery

- **COVID-19**: Campus safety protocols continue;
- **COMMENCEMENT**: Planning is underway for the May 1, [2021 virtual commencement](#).
- **HONORS**: WMU Public Safety joins the 5% of Michigan police agencies to achieve accreditation.
- **HELP STUDENTS**: Learn more about Open Education Resources to help students to save on textbooks.

Remarks from Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bott

- **NEW INTERNAL RESEARCH GRANT**: Interdisciplinary Team Excellence Enhancement [Grant applications](#) are due by 5 p.m. March 23, 2021.
- **INSTITUTIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARITY TEAM**: Meetings have begun, and proposals have been received.
- **COVID-19**: WMU is planning to hold classes in person this fall while prioritizing public health and adhering to any related mandates that may still be in effect to stop the spread of COVID-19. The [Fall Contingency Task Force](#) will be analyzing contingencies.

Action and Informational Items:

- **RECORDING STUDENTS AND STUDENT PRIVACY**: The WMU General Counsel office answered questions regarding instructors recording assessments and synchronous classes. Frequently Asked Questions may be found at [this link](#).
- **CO-CHAIRING POSSIBLE SOON**: [MOA-21/01](#): *Revision of Language to Allow Co-Chairs for Thesis, Specialist, and Dissertation Committees* was approved by the Faculty Senate and will be sent on for approval by the administration.
- **HLC ACCREDITATION**: Director of University Accreditation Andrew Holmes provided a Higher Learning Commission Comprehensive Evaluation update.
- **WESTERN STUDENT ASSOCIATION**: President Taylor West provided an update.