



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

Senate Snapshot

Faculty Senate Nov. 4, 2021, Hyflex 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, other than as an individual's recollection of events.

Remarks from Faculty Senate President Marilyn Kritzman

- **EXECUTIVE BOARD:** The Faculty Senate Executive Board elected a new director, Kieran Fogarty from the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D.

Remarks from WMU President Edward Montgomery

- **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT RESEARCH:** At the Board of Trustees meeting Provost Bott shared a presentation about the power of faculty and student engagement in research. Higher education has seen the value that these efforts provide to the students and faculty. Montgomery is especially proud of the opportunities that Western's faculty make available to the students. Such experiences add an important element to students' college education that can make them attractive to future employers and prepare them to participate in society as informed citizens.
- **NEW ART MAJOR AND MINOR:** Three new minors and one new major have been recommended for addition to the Frostic School of Art. All of these new academic offerings blend art and technology and will help students build problem-solving and communication skills, learn critical thinking, and support

conceptual development.

- **ATHLETIC DIRECTOR SEARCH:** As was earlier announced, Athletic Director Kathy Beauregard will be retiring at the end of December after a long career in leadership at Western. WMU will be convening a search advisory committee and will be conducting a national search for her successor.
- **WMU ENDOWMENT:** The advancement team is showing that the Kalamazoo community supports the work that WMU's faculty is doing, and it is demonstrated through their donations. According to recent data, Western's endowment value was at an all-time high of over \$546 million as of Sept. 30. At the end of the first quarter of the new fiscal year, the number of donors to the University increased by 42% over the same period in the previous year. The number of alumni donors increased 65%, and looking strictly at the undergrad alums, that number increased by 94%. The latter statistic is a key measure that *U.S. News and World Report* use in determining its rankings, making the increase especially positive news.
- **COMMENCEMENT:** is scheduled for Dec. 18 at Miller Auditorium with three ceremonies at 9 a.m., noon, and 3 p.m.

Remarks from Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bott

- **STRATEGIC PLANNING:** Town Hall meetings have been scheduled to solicit feedback about the University's mission, vision, and values. To register for one of the three sessions, visit the website at:
- **HONORS:** The 2021 Academic Excellence Award Series continues through the fall semester.

Action and Informational Items

- **UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT:** Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director for the University Foundation Kristen DeVries provided the annual development report: