



Senate Snapshot

Faculty Senate

On behalf of your Faculty Senate Executive Board, welcome back! It is good to have you back on campus and engaged with fellow faculty and students.

The past seven months have been filled with a relentless series of events across our campus, country, and around the world. Collectively, we have had to adjust and pivot to keep up with the ever-changing landscape.

Thank you for doing such a good job. Your ability to adapt your teaching, service, and professional activities while oftentimes homeschooling (or Zoom schooling) your children cannot be easy. But as a Bronco and member of our community, you have persisted and often thrived.

The pandemic is not over yet. Challenges will continue, and we will meet them head-on. Please remember that as much as we do for others, remember to take time for yourself as well. We must stay safe and physically and mentally strong to finish this long race.

Thank you for taking a moment to review the summary of our first Faculty Senate virtual meeting. Let us know what questions you have. We will do our very best to get you an answer.

We are Western!

Marilyn S. Kritzman, President WMU Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Sep. 17, 2020 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

- The Faculty Senate successfully completed its first virtual meeting.
- The Faculty Senate announced the new [Executive Board](#).
- Four MOAs were approved by the administration:
 - [MOA-19/08](#): Creation of the Eligibility to Serve as WMU Principal Investigators on Sponsored Projects Policy
 - [MOA-19/13](#): Revision to the Appeal for Hardship Withdrawal Procedures of Erroneous Third-Party Documentation
 - [MOA-20/01](#): Revision to Create Faculty-driven Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Opportunities for Graduate Programs
 - [MOA-20/02](#): Revision to Create Faculty-driven Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Opportunities for Undergraduate Programs
- Immediate Past President Rick Gershon (emeriti) was presented with a gavel to acknowledge his past presidency.

Remarks from WMU President Edward Montgomery

- Recognition of the University community for its great efforts in opening the campus this fall and announced that Fall enrollment was down 4.6% (20,490) from last year.
- In response to racial injustice and systemic racism, both nationally and locally, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Candy McCorkle will lead a Racial Justice Advisory committee. This body will plan how WMU can address these challenges and make the University a more open, welcoming and inclusive place for everyone.

- It was reported that 85 faculty took part in the Voluntary Early Retirement Program that was offered this summer. Their impact and accomplishments will be celebrated later this year.

Remarks from Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bott

- Focus on civility and collaboration at WMU. There is a campus collective challenge in creating community across time, space, behind masks, or across a virtual platform.
- Emphasis on specific actions such as checking on students and colleagues (in person or online) and sharing care, concern, and a helping hand.
- Highlight of the [WeTalk](#) initiative, for bringing awareness to these issues.

Action and Informational Items

- A first reading was provided of amendments to the Faculty Senate [Constitution](#) and [Bylaws](#). The vote on these amendments will take place at the Oct. 1 Senate meeting.
- [MOA-20/07](#): Revision of the Organizational Changes of Academic Units was approved.
- WMU Essential Studies is moving forward under the leadership of Interim Director James Cousins.
- The [Support for Faculty Scholars Award](#) provides funding for research and creative activities that may not lead to external funding but that enhance and sustain the scholarly reputation of WMU and the faculty principal investigator. For Academic Year 2020-21 there will only be one cycle of SFSA submissions (**Deadline Nov. 30, 2020**) but there will not be a reduction in the funds committed to the program by the Research Policy Council.