

From: [WMU Faculty Senate](#)
To: [WMU Faculty Senate](#)
Subject: Senate Snapshot - Issue 71 Fall 2026 Welcome
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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

Senate Snapshot

[Faculty Senate](#) Fall 2026 Welcome

As the fall 2026 semester begins, the newly elected Faculty Senate [Executive Board](#) looks forward to working with faculty across the University to advance shared governance and strengthen academic policy and decision-making. We encourage all faculty members to participate in the work of the Senate by attending Faculty Senate meetings or sharing feedback with their unit's elected [Senator\(s\)](#).

[Faculty Senate Meetings](#)

Thursday, 5 to 7 p.m.

2026

- October 1 – Sangren Hall, Room 1910
- November 5 – Student Center, Ballroom A
- December 3 – Student Center, Ballroom A

2027

- February 4 – Student Center, Ballroom A
- April 1 – Student Center, Ballroom A
- April 29 – Student Center, Ballroom A

If you are unable to attend, please share your questions, concerns, and recommendations with the [Senator\(s\)](#) representing your academic unit.

2026–27 Council Priorities

This year, several Faculty Senate [councils](#) will continue examining the impact of artificial intelligence on teaching, learning, and research. Changes to the WMU grading scale will be considered by the Undergraduate Studies Council and the Graduate Studies Council. In addition, the Academic and Information Technology Council and the Campus Planning and Finance Council have been charged with

engaging faculty throughout the WMU's Administrative Redesign initiative.

Council and Committee Vacancies

Faculty participation is essential to shared governance. The Faculty Senate is currently seeking representatives for the following vacancies:

- **Academic and Information Technology Council:** Arts and Sciences (Science & Mathematics), Aviation, Fine Arts
- **Graduate Studies Council:** Arts and Sciences (Social Sciences), Health and Human Services
- **International Education Council:** Arts and Sciences (Science & Mathematics)
- **Research and Creative Scholarship Council:** Aviation
- **Undergraduate Studies Council:** Arts and Sciences (Science & Mathematics)
- **Centers and Institutes Committee:** Aviation
- **Professional Concerns Committee:** Engineering and Applied Sciences, Representative-at-Large
- **Unaffiliated Units Curriculum Committee:** Aviation, Representative-at-Large
- **WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee:** Fine Arts, Representative-at-Large

Faculty interested in serving should contact the [Faculty Senate Office](#).

[Digital Accessibility](#) and [Instructional Support](#)

Preparing instructional materials for digital accessibility remains a University priority. The revised Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II Digital Accessibility Rule requires public universities to ensure that websites, course materials, documents, forms, videos, audio, mobile applications, and social media content are accessible by **April 26, 2027**. The Faculty Senate Office has devoted the summer to improving the accessibility of its materials and recognizes that many faculty members are engaged in similar efforts. This academic year presents an important opportunity to review and enhance course content to ensure compliance.

Faculty seeking assistance with instructional design, digital accessibility, or teaching technologies are encouraged to utilize resources available through the [Office of Faculty Development \(OFD\)](#) and the [Center for Teaching, Learning, and Development \(CTLTD\)](#), including:

[WMU Instructional Support Resources](#)

- [OFD & CTLTD Fall 2026 Back to Campus Instructional Workshops \(Aug 24 & 25\)](#)
- Waldo Library [Events](#) & [Teaching Resources](#)

- [Accessibility Resources for Instructors](#)
- [Instructor Semester To-Do-List](#)
- [Instructional Articles](#), [Event Video archives](#)
- [Instructional Technology Resources](#)

The Faculty Senate wishes everyone a productive and successful fall 2026 semester.

Janet Hahn, President

[Faculty Senate](#)

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