

From: [WMU Faculty Senate](#)
To: [WMU Faculty Senate](#)
Subject: Senate Snapshot - Issue 72 Faculty Senate Oct. 1 Meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:30:55 PM
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Faculty Senate Meeting – Oct. 1, 2026

Did You Know... The work of the Faculty Senate cannot be accomplished without financial assistance from the faculty. Your voluntary \$25 faculty fee supports shared governance and defrays costs. Please make your [contribution](#) today.

Remarks from Faculty Senate President Janet Hahn

- Provided a [guide](#) to the Faculty Senate structure and Senators' responsibilities in shared governance.
- Over the summer the Executive Board approved [MOA-26/10: Revision of the Graduate Catalog Accelerated Graduate Degree Program](#).
- The Executive Board established the [Ad Hoc Academic Innovation and Foresight Committee](#) to provide faculty leadership in anticipating changes affecting WMU's academic future.

Remarks from WMU President Russ Kavalhuna

- Introduction of Carlos Rodriguez, who began Oct. 1 as WMU's new Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.
- Announcement of Alex Gary as WMU's new Athletic Director, noting his commitment to student-athlete academic and athletic success and his distinction as the first African American to lead the department.
- Recognition of Christopher Cheatham's appointment as Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, a new executive designation at WMU.
- President Kavalhuna discussed the [Administrative Redesign](#) initiative, which is a response to concerns about inefficient processes, financial challenges, and the need to better align resources with WMU's mission.

Remarks from Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Christopher Cheatham

- Academic Affairs [updates](#) were provided on [enrollment](#), strategic priorities, academic initiatives, and student success.
- A faculty-centered steering committee is being established to develop a future-focused review of undergraduate academic programs.

- Experience-Driven Learning (EDL) venture [grants](#) were announced.

Informational Items

- The Academic and Information Technology Council provided an [overview](#) of its 2026-27 charges.
- Gwen Bostic, Senior Specialist for Accessibility Compliance in the Office of Information Technology, provided an update on WMU's preparations for [digital accessibility](#) compliance.
- Chief Information Officer Andrew Holmes provided an update on the [Information Technology Administrative Redesign](#).
- Provost Office Senior Director of Business Operations Erica Martinez provided an overview of the new hybrid [academic affairs budget model](#) implemented July 1, 2026.

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.