Western Michigan University
Board of Trustees
October 29, 2026

PROPOSAL: Personnel Report

ACADEMIC

Administrative Appointments

Deveta Gardner; Associate Dean; Merze Tate College;
effective October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2029.

Regina Garza Mitchell; Interim Chair; Department of Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology;
effective August 15, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Bianca Nightengale-Lee; Chair; Department of Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies;
effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2030.

Appointments – Tenure Track

Paul Meng; Faculty Specialist I – Lecturer; Special Education and Literacy Studies;
effective August 15, 2026.

Appointments – Term

Cynthia Bloom; Faculty Specialist II – Lecturer; Department of Political Science;
effective September 2, 2026 through August 14, 2027.

Heidi Bremer-Koepler; Faculty Specialist II – Counseling Specialist; Department of Counseling Services; Sindecuse Health Center;
effective October 12, 2026 through August 14, 2027.

Tyler Dancer; Assistant Professor; University Libraries;
effective September 15, 2026 through August 14, 2027.

Scott Freeman; Instructor; Department of Accountancy;
effective January 1, 2027 through August 14, 2028.

Evie Jefferies; Faculty Specialist I – Professional Specialist; School of Social Work;
effective September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Appointment – Term (continued)

Carmen Kline; Faculty Specialist II – Counseling Specialist; Department of Counseling Services; Sindecuse Health Center;
effective October 12, 2026 through August 14, 2027.

Lilita Matison; Faculty Specialist I – Professional Specialist; School of Social Work;
effective September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Lyndsay Nuyen; Faculty Specialist I – Professional Specialist; School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs;
effective January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027.

Anthony Wilburn; Faculty Specialist I – Lecturer; Department of Mathematics;
effective August 15, 2026 through August 14, 2027.

Sabbatical Leave

Mioara Diaconu; Professor; School of Social Work;
effective Academic Year 2027-2028 (change in date only).

Dee Sherwood; Professor; School of Social Work;
effective Spring 2028 (change in date only).

Faculty Retirements with Emeritus Status

Karen Bondarchuk; Professor Emerita Art; Gwen Frostic School of Art;
effective August 14, 2032.

Sue Ellen Christian; Professor Emerita Communication; School of Communication;
effective May 14, 2032.

Stephen Covell; Professor Emeritus World Religions and Cultures; Department of World Religions and Cultures;
effective May 14, 2032.

Cat Crotchett; Professor Emerita Art; Gwen Frostic School of Art;
effective August 14, 2032.

Stephen Hasenick; Master Faculty Specialist Emeritus Aviation; College of Aviation;
effective August 14, 2032.

Faculty Retirements with Emeritus Status (continued)

John Miller; Professor Emeritus Chemistry; Department of Chemistry;
effective December 31, 2032.

Nicolas Witschi; Professor Emeritus English; Department of English;
effective December 31, 2026.

Victor Xiong; Professor Emeritus History; Department of History;
effective August 14, 2032.

Administrator Retirements with Emeritus Status

Nicolas Witschi; Associate Dean Emeritus College of Arts and Sciences; College of Arts and Sciences;
effective December 31, 2026.

NON-ACADEMIC

Retirements

Amy Burns; Executive Assistant; College of Education and Human Development;
effective November 30, 2026.

David Clemens; Stage Technician; Miller Auditorium;
effective September 30, 2026.

Laura Darrah; Assistant Director Residence Life - Engagement and Assessment; Residence Life;
effective October 5, 2026.

Deanna Mergen-Hendry; West Hills Attendant II; West Hills Athletic Club;
effective August 31, 2026.

Paul Hildenbrand; Manager Recruitment and Outreach - Transfer; Haworth College of Business;
effective October 23, 2026.

Tracey Lawie; General Manager Miller Auditorium; Miller Auditorium;
effective December 23, 2026.

Thomas McLaughlin; Chief Instructor and Director of Flight Operations; College of Aviation;
effective November 15, 2026.

Retirements (continued)

Matthew Stoops; Supervisory Laboratory Engineering; Department of Chemical and Paper Engineering;
effective August 31, 2026.

Veronica Thomas; Administrative Assistant Senior; Residence Life;
effective December 31, 2026.

Administrative Appointments

Keith Hahn; Senior Vice President for Institutional Integrity and General Counsel;
effective September 17, 2026.

Jeffrey Breneman, Senior Vice President for External Relations;
effective September 17, 2026, *subject to contract execution.*

Remzi Seker, Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation;
effective September 17, 2026, *subject to contract execution*.

Danielle Gregory, Vice President for Institutional Culture and Campus Experience;
effective September 17, 2026, *subject to contract execution*.

Alex Gary, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics and Athletic Director;
effective October 9, 2026, *subject to contract execution*.