Western Michigan University
Faculty Senate
February 7, 2019

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Since the Faculty Senate last met in December, we have learned of the passing of the following retired faculty members:

- **James Burns**, Teaching, Learning and Leadership
- **Arthur Falk**, Philosophy
- **James Petersen**, Sociology and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
- **Nancy Stone**, English
Recently you received the call for Faculty membership nominations for Senate Councils and Committees. Shared governance is a unique partnership between the WMU faculty, students, and administration. That partnership can take many forms from designing new academic programs and curriculum, to building and infrastructure issues on campus, to working with disabled students to ensure opportunity. The Faculty Senate Executive Board is currently seeking to fill positions on its seven councils and numerous committees. You may nominate yourself or colleagues you believe would be effective members of the councils or committees by sending an email to faculty-senate@wmich.edu by Thursday, February 28.
On March 22 we will honor the undergraduate students selected by their academic department faculty as this year’s Presidential Scholars.
On January 25, the first of four retreats was held by the WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee. This committee, under the direction of Decker Hains, represents an important next phase in the WMU Essential Studies review processes since it determines courses and their location within the larger WMU Essential Studies structure. We will hear more on the retreat later in tonight’s program.
Planning is underway for the Research and Creative Activities Day that is scheduled for April 11. Research and Creative Activities Day is a highly unique event held on the WMU campus that brings together graduate students from across campus to present their research and to interact with other graduate students and faculty. The event is set up so that anyone who wishes to attend can meet and talk with students about their research. The Graduate College is responsible for the organization and planning of the event.
The Campus Planning and Finance Council

The Campus Planning and Finance Council reviewed and provided input into WMU’s sustainable and proactive storm water planning initiatives that have resulted in substantial cost-saving for the campus and improved water quality in the region. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency identifies storm water runoff as a significant cause of water pollution. At issue is the fact that WMU’s physical campus contains many impervious surfaces such as pavement, which prevents rain and other water sources from naturally soaking into the ground. Instead, water runs rapidly into storm drains, sewer systems, and drainage ditches which can cause flooding, erosion, and muddiness that can cause significant damage. The goal, therefore, is to create an effective management of storm water runoff that is both efficient and environmentally friendly.
The International Education Council

The IEC is currently working with the Haenicke Institute for Global Education to develop a new Global Classroom initiative, which has the potential to transform cross-cultural student interaction at WMU. The global classroom concept takes advantage of current videoconferencing technology to bring shared classroom experiences between a WMU course and a possible counterpart from another university.
Thank you