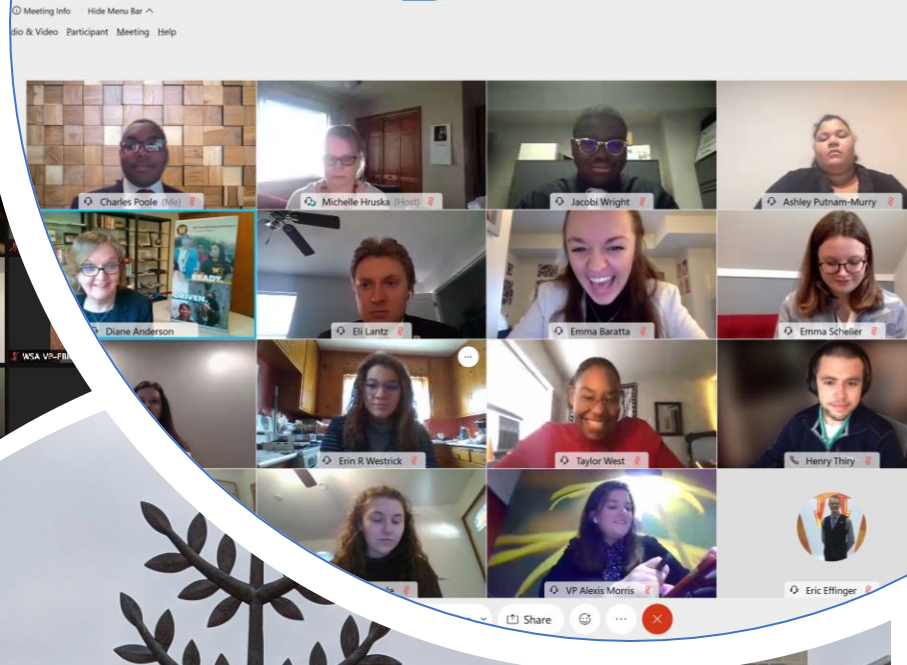




# WSA Year in Review

Presentation to Faculty Senate  
2020-2021





**"The Western Student Association exists to unify students, amplify their voices, and provide new opportunities to leave a legacy."**

We, the Students of Western Michigan University, desire to: Provide order to ensure the democratic organization and republican governance; Provide fair representation of the Student Body; Maintain an active voice in University affairs; Recognize the Western Student Association (WSA) as the legitimate Student representative body; Charge the WSA with the responsibility to effectively and efficiently represent and act in the collective interest of Western Michigan University Students; do hereby establish the Western Student Association.



**This Summer**





## VISUAL IDENTITY PROGRAM

### SJF Sub-committee Interest Form

This interest form is to provide more effective avenue through subcommittees, to complete the four goals outlined in the Student-Led Social Justice Fund. Members are to rank their committee preference from most interested (1) to least interested (4) based on their passion, dedication, and expertise on the matter. The descriptions for the committees are as follows:

**Affinity Space Committee:** Chaired by Dr. Candy McCorkle

This committee will help advocate for the creation and implementation of affinity spaces for marginalized students at WMU. As of now, affinity spaces can be held in the Bernhard center until August of 2021 but will need a more permanent location. This committee is tasked with finding a home for affinity spaces as well as determining the management, funding, and rules of these spaces to ensure its legacy. This implementation will impact the recruitment and retention of students and faculty and foster a connection between students and their respective cultural communities.

**Scholarship Committee:** Chaired by Monica Liggins-Abrams

This committee will help implement a new Social Justice Fund Scholarship to provide more available financial support for students. It's been shown that the retention for Sophomores and Juniors is rapidly decreasing due to financial hardships and lack of support awareness. This group is tasked with identifying qualifications for scholarship, appropriate description verbiage, as well as funding avenues from donors to ensure its legacy. Students can benefit from added financial assistance and utilizing the creation of a scholarship opens opportunities for students to continue learning.

**Faculty Recruitment & Retention Committee:** Chaired by TBD

This committee will help solidify a strategic avenue in recruiting and retaining faculty of color, to help increase WMU's student graduation rate and promote the university's pillar of diversity, equity, and inclusion. It's been shown that there is a positive correlation to student academic success and representative faculty of the same racial identity. This group is tasked with navigating the appropriate avenue for starting the conversation, creation of strategic plan to implement this goal for its intended result, as well as outlining possible funding resources to ensure its legacy.

**Undergraduate Research Committee:** Chaired by TBD

This committee will help bridge the gap between underrepresented students and undergraduate research opportunities to increase networking, mentorship, and success. Underrepresented students at WMU have experienced the lack of opportunity for them to participate in research or development, a resource at WMU that is highly funded and promoted but not always utilized. This group is tasked with identifying possible avenues of expansion to marginalized community's, available workspace on campus, and necessary funding to ensure its legacy. This expansion would improve the overall graduation rate by fostering a connection between students and their respective cultural communities through collaborative work with faculty of same or different backgrounds.

- Communities in Collaboration Event
- WSA Blackout Statement
- List of Demands to advocate on behalf of students, faculty and staff
- WMU Mask Policy
- Student Led Social Justice Fund
- WMU Student Town Hall Event
- NEW Brand identity guide



# This Fall



- Built a bicameral legislature in a pandemic!
- Confirmed student senators for academic colleges, as well as the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate
- Confirmed student to represent their RSO's in the House of Representatives, Speaker of the House, and Secretary of the House
- Confirmed students to sustainability Grant Commission, Judicial Council, and Allocations team
- WeTalk Event: Social Justice Past, Present, and Future
- Allocations dream team have allocated over \$24K to student organizations
- Passed 17 pieces of legislation
- *EX: VDC Sidewalk extension, WMU Identity Bill, WSA Mental Health Week, etc.*
- Mental Health Week pt. 1
- Free Legal Aid Clinic has helped
- Mental Health Week
- WSA Podcast
- theLEGACY

# This Spring







- New WSA Website: [wmuwsa.org](http://wmuwsa.org)
- Mental Health Week pt. 2
- Student Sustainability Summit
- Environmental Justice Project Collaboration (March 11 & 18)
- Dinner with the Delegates (March 19th)
- WSA Prom in collaboration with LHC and CAB (March 20)
- Elections!



# Partnership with Faculty Senate

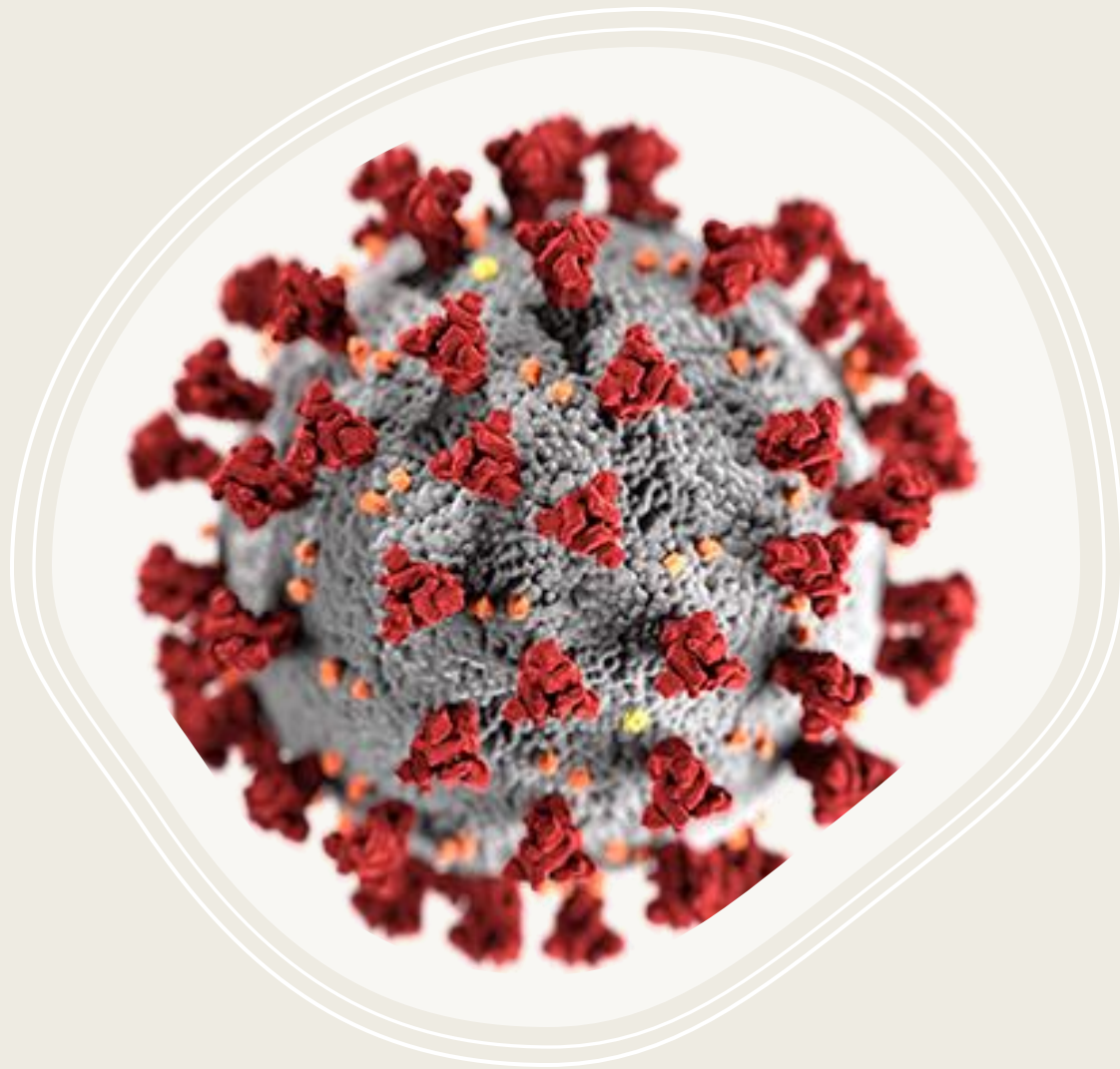
This year was filled with opportunities for collaboration as the COVID-19 pandemic brought many challenges to higher education:

- Allies
- Guidance videos for virtual platforms
- Fallen Broncos
- Fall Mental Health Week

## **Lingering Projects:**

- Seamless transition into Virtual World
- BA Scale Discussion





# COVID's Impact on the Quality of Education

## *The Quality of Education:*

The meaning of a **Quality Education** is one that is pedagogically and developmentally sound and educates the student in becoming an active and productive members of society. ... A **quality education** provides the outcomes needed for individuals, communities, and societies to prosper.

## Looking Through the Student Lense:

- Accessibility Issue
- Retention Issue/Investment
- Accommodations
- Credit/No Credit
- Engagement=Quality

# How can we help?

Help Build the Bridge

- Can we go further?

How to be part of the solution, not part of the problem

Creativity and Innovation

Spreading Awareness of Resources

# Where do we go from here?

Next Steps:

```
graph TD; A[Next Steps:] --> B[WSA and Faculty Senate Ally Agreement?]; B --> C[Challenge Question #1: How are you continuing the advance social and environmental justice?]; C --> D[Challenge Question #2: How can our organizations continue to collaborate for the next administration?];
```

WSA and Faculty Senate Ally Agreement?

**Challenge Question #1:** How are you continuing the advance social and environmental justice?

**Challenge Question #2:** How can our organizations continue to collaborate for the next administration?



**Thank You!**