

## Knowles Notes

December 13, 2019

Finals week is officially winding down, and tomorrow, we will have an opportunity to confer 1,691 degrees at three commencement ceremonies. Of those, 60 will be awarded to military veterans; students from nearly 40 different countries will be receiving diplomas. Thank you to the Registrar's Office team for their tireless efforts to organize every aspect of the ceremonies and ensure all logistics are handled.

Here are some other updates from the week:

- The President's Cabinet met in Dalton this week, the latest stop on their traveling meeting schedule. Agenda topics included the following:
  - 10-year budget forecast presented by Vice Provost Cheatham and Colleen Scarff, Executive Director of University Budgets and Financial Planning
  - APLU public impact research presented by Terri Kinzy
  - Additional discussions covered Girls on the Run planning for 2020, preparation for the December Board of Trustees meeting, and sharing reflections on student life experiences.
- The Provost's Council also met to discuss strategies for more consistently communicating within various academic units to minimize potential for misinformation and confusion. The changes to the Provost's website were also shown and feedback shared. The team is already brainstorming ways in which some of the suggestions can be incorporated into a comprehensive communication plan. Thank you for the input!
  - Completion and rescue awards for students were also discussed in more detail. An official communication and decision tree will be shared in the coming weeks with the goal of addressing financial needs in a clear and prescribed manner that includes all critical units, specifically financial aid and accounts receivable.
- The [Board of Trustees](#) met on Thursday morning in the Bernhard Center. [Action items](#) included the Honorary Degree Policy, Presidential Compensation and Assessment Committee Charter, Presidential Evaluation and Contract, and a number of consent items.
  - Additional details and links to pertinent documents can all be found via the following link: <https://wmich.edu/trustees/agendas-minutes>
- This evening, Provost Bott will be attending the Lee Honors College graduation ceremony and participating in the Bronson School of Nursing's hooding and pinning ceremony.