

Knowles Notes

February 7, 2020

It is suddenly February! Here is what has been going on this first week of the month in our office:

1. Provost Bott spent a majority of her week traveling to New Orleans, LA to attend the University Professional and Continuing Education Association (UPCEA) Summit for Online Leadership and Administration + Roundtable (SOLA+R) event, where she delivered a featured address on making the leap from chief online learning officer to chief academic officer.
2. Unfortunately, the Provost's travel plans prevented her from being able to attend Thursday evening's Faculty Senate meeting. The Vice Provost, Dr. Christopher Cheatham, attended on her behalf and shared comments on the following topics:
 - a. [One WMU](#). Town Halls are scheduled for February 12 and 14. The Provost's Office is grateful for the senate's engagement and identification of members of the faculty design committee to further contribute to the initiative. A naming contest to name the new college will be launched next week, as well. Stay tuned!
 - b. [Dunbar Hall Renovations](#). Plans are coming together, particularly after town hall discussions earlier this week. Having to take the building offline provides an opportunity for all of Academic Affairs to distribute courses more broadly and intentionally across days and times. The Registrar's Office is working with chairs and directors to problem solve based on individual challenges and specifics. Richard Carbonneau, Supervisor of Academic Scheduling, Office of the Registrar should be contacted for additional details and assistance; he can be reached via email at Richard.carbonneau@wmich.edu.
 - c. Positive Enrollment News. FTIAC retention rates for fall 2019 to spring 2020 were over 93% this year, and the 6-year graduation rate increased by an impressive 4%. Many thanks to our faculty colleagues for the collective effort in engaging our students and positively influencing outcomes. The Institutional Research website features many [interactive dashboards](#) and are an excellent resource for keeping track of the latest enrollment trends.
 - d. Employee Engagement. These conversations – for improving the campus culture – are continuing in Academic Affairs and throughout every division of the university. Please get engaged through your VP or learn more via the [engagement website](#).