

## Knowles Notes

Friday, February 28

Happy Spirit Day! It has been a wintery week on campus, but spring break is officially on the horizon. Here is what has been going on in the Office of the Provost the last several days:

On Monday, the President's Cabinet met at the College of Health and Human Services. In addition to experiencing a number of engagement opportunities around the building and enjoying a light breakfast with college faculty and staff, the Cabinet tackled the following agenda items during their meeting:

- Free Speech Website Content. Watch for this website to launch sometime in March. This is one of several conversations university administrators have been having to prepare for the November election and ensure university policies and procedures are set in advance of potential concerns arising. Paula Davis and Jeff Breneman lead the website discussion.
- [Duty to Report Policy](#). An update on Good Faith Reporting from Carrick Craig.
- Pandemic Matrix. Led by Kahler Schuemann. In response to ongoing Coronavirus recommendations from CDC and WHO, university travel policies and bans were discussed and plans established to continue conversations – particularly regarding study abroad programs near outbreak zones – in coordination with HIGE Associate Provost, Dr. Paulo Zagalo-Melo, Provost Bott, and Emergency Manager, Lieutenant Andrew Bachmann.
- Foreign Influence in Faculty/Staff Activities. Terri Kinzy, Carrick Craig, Jeff Breneman, and Provost Bott informed fellow Cabinet members of current concerns around foreign research funding.
- Planning for the Spring Employee Engagement Forum. Thursday, March 26, 8-10 a.m. Bernhard Center West Ballroom (rooms 208-210).

On Tuesday, the Provost's Council met. The below agenda items were featured:

- Ship to Shore Discussion. A briefing on recent student concern that quickly went viral after she shared her displeasure with a school of music performance on social media. After several conversations with the student, performers, visiting faculty member, and members of various student groups, it is clear that this incident is simply the latest symptom of a much broader issue.
  - A Provost's Council workgroup aimed at building or improving existing mechanisms for students to share their opinions with academic affairs senior administrators was established. Existing frameworks from other institutions were discussed and will be consulted to inform their work.
- Enrollment Update. Vice Provost, Dr. Chris Cheatham, provided some updates based on applications and admissions for Fall 2020. These reports can be accessed and filtered according to individual interest via [Cognos](#).
  - Provost Bott also announced that she is in the process of hiring a search firm to initiate an Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management search. As the title suggests, this position will be slightly different than in the past; the emphasis will be on serving the institution on a whole, but reporting lines will remain in Academic Affairs. Stay tuned for more details.

- Handwashing. A friendly reminder – and demonstration – in light of ongoing influenza and coronavirus threats. The latest updates from the CDC can be found on their [website](#). Proper handwashing remains one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of infection.
  - As senior officials continue to monitor the spread and implications of COVID-19, details will be communicated.
- Thank you, Ed Martini and the WMUx team, for a successful re-launch.
- Also, thank you to Monica Liggins-Abrams and the multiple teams of One WMU, for the productive and informative town halls.