

## Knowles Notes

January 24, 2020

Greetings! Here is what happened this (short) week in the Office of the Provost:

- The Provost began her week by giving welcome remarks at the [MLK Day Teach-in](#), “Truth Power: Misinformation and the Threat to Inclusive Democracy.” The event was highlighted by presentations from both WMU faculty and students along with various community partners on current topics related to equity and justice.
- The office hosted a Gold Gathering this week that featured Blue Ox Credit Union and Meemic Insurance Agency as co-sponsors. The Provost was able to meet and mingle with over 100 staff and faculty over the two-hour luncheon and was delighted to spend the time with all of those who could attend. The next, and final, Gold Gathering this Academic Year will be held on **Wednesday, March 11 from 11 am-1 pm in 208-209 Bernhard Center.**
- Academic Forum met for their monthly meeting and discussed multiple topics:
  - Academic Program Review: Cathe Springsteen, Assistant Director of Integrated Program Review and Accreditation, gave an overview of the timeline and new template being used for this cycle. For more information regarding APR, please visit their [website](#).
  - Employee Engagement Updates: Each unit was given an opportunity to share their efforts on employee engagement to the group. Efforts include developing processes for onboarding new staff, multiple staff recognition awards, professional development funding, and weekly reports from the Dean.
  - Dunbar Renovation and Course Scheduling: Richard Carbonneau from the Registrar’s office joined the meeting to discuss Dunbar’s classroom usage as well as the impacts that it’s renovation will have on course scheduling. The group was able to brainstorm about solutions to the loss of this classroom space. Please contact Richard at [Richard.carbonneau@wmich.edu](mailto:Richard.carbonneau@wmich.edu) for additional guidance.
  - Graduate Tuition Update: An open discussion about the reasons behind the change as well as the potential impacts the graduate tuition change could have on graduate programs, concluded the agenda.
- The Board of Trustees met on Thursday, January 23 in Heritage Hall. The Provost was able to present a proposal to purchase an FM License with Kalamazoo Public Schools. This initiative was spearheaded by Stephen Williams, the General Manager of WMUK, and will be funded by a grant through the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation. The Board approved the purchase of this new station that will be utilized as “Classical WMUK,” while the current station will now be dedicated to NPR news and information. For the full agenda and meeting minutes, please visit the Board of Trustees [website](#).
- The Provost was also able to attend the College of Education and Human Development’s Spring Town Hall meeting. She was able to mingle with staff and faculty over breakfast and give brief remarks that included Think Big and One WMU updates. Thank you to CEHD for hosting a great meeting!