

It has been an honor to serve as your president for the WMU-AAUP chapter for the past 2 years, and I hope to continue to serve you in this role if I am re-elected. This year has brought unprecedented challenges and an uncomfortable level of uncertainty. As the leader of our hard-working team, I have represented this union with strength, ensuring the well-being of all union members. Our relationships with other unions at the university remain strong, and the joint bonds serve us all. Committed to shared governance, I will continue to faithfully represent faculty interests to WMU administration while maintaining a fruitful atmosphere of mutual respect.

The time has come for every member of this campus community to rise up and address the horrifying events we have witnessed over the summer. We must all stop and listen to voices that have gone too long unheard at WMU. I welcome collaboration with the Black Faculty and Staff Council and Racial Justice Advisory Council (among others), to take action that goes beyond the university mission statement of diversity, to develop formal policies that support equity and inclusion at WMU. A meaningful step in this direction will be to address such policies in our policies and upcoming contract. If re-elected, you can count on me to follow through.

My fundamental goal as president of your union is to ensure that WMU is an equitable workplace, with good pay, sound health care benefits, and reasonable workloads. Our team worked diligently to minimize the harm that faculty suffered due to the alleged budget shortfall caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We were successful in our fight to avoid layoffs of our membership, and our hard work will continue as we support our WMU-AAUP Negotiation Team in securing a new contract that keeps working at WMU attractive to current and future faculty.

If you are in favor of these goals and support continuity of leadership, please also consider a vote to re-elect Mark St. Martin as your vice president. Together, we have worked for the well-being of everyone represented by our union, not for any self-aggrandizement, or benefit to any one constituency over any other. Your vote will continue our leadership grounded in open communication and guided by reason, not emotion. We have established sound relationships with university constituencies that have served us well in these hard times.

Through our shared commitment to solidarity we can all make a brighter future together.

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