

As the current Vice President of the WMU-AAUP, I have done my utmost to serve the Chapter. This has included pushing back firmly against the administration's missteps and doing so in a way that allows for the continuance of dialogue and respect to ensure shared governance. I have also worked collaboratively as a member of various Chapter leadership teams. As a team, we were able to successfully fight to avoid the invocation of Article 25 and layoffs of our Chapter members. I continue to work at increasing our membership as well as trying to strategize and find solutions for issues facing our members.

As a licensed psychologist and licensed professional counselor, I am trained to listen and to respond in a nonjudgmental manner to seek solutions. I have been prepared to approach tough issues from multiple angles. In these trying times for our university and the nation at large, it is imperative that we begin listening to each other and attempt to appreciate the perspective of our colleagues. It has been my sincere pleasure to meet many Chapter members during my tenure as Vice President. WMU faculty are amazing individuals with a wealth of knowledge and expertise. Every faculty member has their own personal and professional concerns as well as thoughts about what should happen at WMU. These notions will, at times, inevitably differ from others' ideas as to what should or needs to happen. To preserve and enhance our chapter's strength, we must not castigate each other's beliefs about a pathway or plan as illegitimate or of bad intent, but rather as a starting place for conversation. I am committed to promoting these conversations and healing divisions that may have formed, as they sometimes do, in large organizations in times of crisis. We are strong as one, however, we must continually work to build that strength from within.

I believe we must continue to monitor and hold a line of accountability for administration, build unity within our chapter, work as a team and be prepared to fight vigorously in support of our Negotiation Team and for our next contract. A retired WMU colleague often started committee meetings with the admonition "assume good will." Though we have faced difficult times as the WMU administration made what appear to be draconian budget cuts during the pandemic, taking this perspective will ensure we face coming challenges in solidarity as a Chapter.

I would describe myself as an empathic, rational and measured individual and believe strongly that these qualities will continue to serve the WMU-AAUP chapter well, in upcoming negotiations and for the next two years. I appreciate your support and will do my best to serve the Chapter.

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