

**WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Academic and Student Development Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 26, 2024**  
**3:00 P.M.**  
**Wellness Center, Room 204**

**Meeting Called By:** Karen LaFond (Chair)

**Minutes:** Nikki Kapurch

**Board Members:** Karen M. LaFond (Chair), Maureen Power (Vice Chair), Marina Taylor, Kyram Pou, Jr.

**WSU Staff:** Lois Wims; Ashlynn Allain; Carl Herrin; Nikki Kapurch; Stacey Luster

All documents considered to be **drafts** until discussed and/or approved by the Board

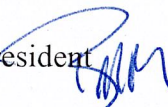
<b>AGENDA</b>		
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1. <i>Administrative Business</i> A. Call to Order	Karen LaFond	
2. <i>Academic and Student Development Committee Report</i> A. President memo to BOT* B. Provost memo to President* C. Sabbatical Summary and Proposal Summaries PowerPoint* D. Approval of AY 2025-2026 Sabbatical Leave Proposals	Karen LaFond Lois Wims	A. Informational B. Informational C. Informational  <b>D. vote required</b>
3. <i>Administrative Updates</i> A. Other Business	Karen LaFond	
4. <i>Adjournment</i>	Karen LaFond	4. <b>vote required</b>

\*Attachments



**WORCESTER**  
STATE  
**UNIVERSITY**

President's Office  
Phone: 508-929-8020  
Fax: 508-929-8191  
Email: [bmaloney@worchester.edu](mailto:bmaloney@worchester.edu)

TO: Members, WSU Board of Trustees  
FROM: Barry M. Maloney, President   
RE: Sabbatical Leaves AY 2025 - 2026  
DATE: October 29, 2024

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I am pleased to support Provost Wims' recommendation and am forwarding eighteen (18) proposals for sabbatical leave.

This year, a total of nineteen proposals were submitted. Of those, seven are recommended for the fall of 2025, eleven are recommended for the spring of 2026, and one proposal was not recommended by Provost Wims.

The department chairs have confirmed that the individual study plans for each candidate will enhance their respective department's course offerings. I also agree with Dr. Wims that each area of study will significantly contribute to the professional development of the scholars and teachers involved, ultimately benefiting Worcester State University and its students.

Enclosed is a copy of Dr. Wims' recommendation along with a brief summary of the proposed sabbatical projects.



# WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Phone: 508-929-8038

Fax: 508-929-8187

TO: President Barry Maloney

FROM: Lois A. Wims, Provost

DATE: October 28, 2024

RE: Sabbatical Recommendations AY 25/26

**APPROVED**

OCT 29 2024

BARRY M. MALONEY  
PRESIDENT

I recommend the following sabbaticals for the 25/26 Academic Year:

**Fall 2025:**

Mariana Calle	Health Science
Pamela Hollander	Education
Brittany Jeye	Psychology
Hyesun Kim	Criminal Justice
Tanya Trudell	Occupational Therapy
Don Vescio	English
Lingling Wang	Business Administration & Economics

**Spring 2026:**

Diane Cooke	Education
Mary Fowler	Mathematics
Hy Ginsberg	Mathematics
Ross Griffiths	Library
Jennifer Hood-DeGrenier	Biology
Christina Kaniu	Education
Kyle Martin	Visual and Performing Arts
Mim Plavin-Masterman	Business Administration & Economics
Joseph Quattrucci	Chemistry
Brandi Silver	Psychology
Emily Soltao	Psychology

Cc: Sathi Mitra  
Michelle Corbin



**WORCESTER**  
S T A T E  
**UNIVERSITY**

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Phone: 508-929-8038

Fax: 508-929-8187

TO: President Barry Maloney  
FROM: Lois A. Wims, Provost  
DATE: October 28, 2024  
RE: Sabbatical Recommendation AY 25/26

*Lois A. Wims*

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I do not recommend the following sabbatical for the 25/26 Academic Year:

**Fall 2025:** John Tahiliani Criminal Justice

CC: Sathi Mitra  
Michelle Corbin



SABBATICAL LEAVES

2025 - 2026

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# SABBATICAL PROCESS AT WSU

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- Sabbatical leave provides an opportunity for a period of study and research for full-time faculty after every six full years of faculty service to WSU.
- Sabbaticals serve as an important component of faculty professional development, ensuring that faculty members stay current in their fields and advance their scholarship, enhancing their contribution to the students and the university.
- Eligibility for sabbatical leave is explained in the collective bargaining agreement (Article XV, A-F.)
- Sabbatical proposals are submitted by eligible faculty members to their department chairs each October 1st.
- Chairs forward their recommendation to the Provost. The Provost then reviews the proposals and recommends approval or denial to the President, who submits those recommended to the Board of Trustees for approval at the November Board meeting.
- If approved, faculty may also choose to defer to a later semester by notifying the President in writing of their intention to defer. Deferral is possible for six semesters from the award.

# REVIEW OF SABBATICAL APPLICATIONS

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- 19 new proposals were received this fall, joining the 15 awarded for 2024/25 by action of the Board last year.
- 18 are recommended by President Barry Maloney to the Board for approval for the 25/26 Academic Year.
- 0 are recommended by the President for deferral to the 26/27 Academic Year.

# REVIEW OF SABBATICAL APPLICATIONS

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- Faculty on sabbatical leave for one semester receive their full salary during the period of the leave.
- Those on full year sabbatical leave, receive one-half salary for the full year.
- The cost to the institution for awarding sabbatical leave is for hiring part time, adjunct faculty to teach some of the courses that the faculty member on leave would have taught. Typically, not every course that would have been taught is offered during the sabbatical semester because some elective type courses can be postponed and taught during a later semester. Chairs are asked to certify that the department can sustain the courses needed in the absence of the faculty member.
- Recipients of a sabbatical commit in writing to return to the institution for an academic year following the sabbatical and will be responsible to reimburse the university should they not return for the required timeframe.
- Recipients also must report on the sabbatical activities upon their return.



# ESTIMATED COST FOR 2025-2026

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- Approximately 180 course sections will need to be covered by adjuncts for the sabbaticals.
- Sections are offered based on student demand, not on faculty availability, and the number of courses offered each spring are lower than fall semesters with approximately a 2 to 5% drop in the need for adjunct coverage in the spring. Given that more than half of the proposed sabbaticals are for the spring semester, the cost may be less than estimated.
- Average cost of \$6,000 per section, this equals \$360,000 for these.
- Funds to cover this expense will be included in the adjunct line of the FY 25 and FY 26 budget.

# OVERVIEW OF SABBATICAL PROPOSALS RECOMMENDED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Semester	Faculty Member	Department
Fall 2025	Mariana Calle	Health Science
Fall 2025	Pamela Hollander	Education
Fall 2025	Brittany Jeye	Psychology
Fall 2025	Hyesun Kim	Criminal Justice
Fall 2025	Tanya Trudell	Occupational Therapy
Fall 2025	Don Vescio	English
Fall 2025	Lingling Wang	Business Administration & Economics

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# FALL 2025 | MARIANA CALLE

## HEALTH SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

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### *“Preventive Nutrition in Cardio-Metabolic Disease: Visiting Scholar”*

- Visiting Scholar at Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health
- Addressing the disparate impact of metabolic diseases on the Hispanic/Latine population
- Grant application and engagement with the Worcester community

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# FALL 2025 | PAMELA HOLLANDER

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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### *“Worcester Arts Magnet School Student Fashion Career Project”*

- Burncoat Arts Magnet School collaboration with faculty, a professional designer and students
- Grant application
- Literature review, planned culminating fashion show

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# FALL 2025 | BRITTANY JEYE

## PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

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### *“Understanding the Neural Timing Associated with Inhibition in Long-term Memory Using EEG”*

- Investigating regions of brain and memory
- Utilizing existing data sets and exploring the potential for additional investigations at WSU
- Literature review, new analysis line, and mentoring undergraduate students in EEG exploration

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# FALL 2025 | HYESUN KIM

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

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### *“Anti-Asian Hate Crime Book Project”*

- Examining COVID impact on anti-Asian crime increases
- Comprehensive literature review and collaboration with other scholars
- Prepare proposal, outline, chapters and data collection
- Lexington Books exploration of contract

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# FALL 2025 | TANYA TRUDELL

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT

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### *“An Ostomy Care Pilot Program: Enhancing Ostomy Recovery, Community Connections and Student Success”*

- Experiential learning opportunities for WSU OT students to work with this increasing population of ostomy recipients
- Creation of ostomy care pilot program
- Scholarly paper and presentation potential

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# FALL 2025 | DON VESCIO

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

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### *“AI in Higher Education: Developing OER Textbooks and Advancing Institutional Strategies”*

- Creation of two open course textbooks for use at WSU and beyond
- Incorporating diverse perspectives to foster inclusivity in OER materials
- Develop comprehensive report on AI integration in higher education in the Commonwealth



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# FALL 2025 | LINGLING WANG

## BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

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### *“Research on Artificial Intelligence Tools and Techniques for Enhancing Business Analytics”*

- Mixed methods review and research into the current uses of AI
- Development of course materials for a special topics course
- Best practices potential scholarly submission

# OVERVIEW OF SABBATICAL PROPOSALS RECOMMENDED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Semester	Faculty Member	Department
Spring 2026	Diane Cooke	Education
Spring 2026	Mary Fowler	Mathematics
Spring 2026	Hy Ginsberg	Mathematics
Spring 2026	Ross Griffiths	Library
Spring 2026	Jennifer Hood-DeGrenier	Biology
Spring 2026	Christina Kaniu	Education
Spring 2026	Kyle Martin	Visual & Performing Arts
Spring 2026	Mim Plavin-Masterman	Business Administration & Economics
Spring 2026	Joseph Quattrucci	Chemistry
Spring 2026	Brandi Silver	Psychology
Spring 2026	Emily Soltano	Psychology

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# SPRING 2026 | DIANE COOKE

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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### *“Social Justice in School Psychology Training Curriculum”*

- Survey of recent alumna/e and analysis of course content
- Rubrics developed for assessing social justice learning outcomes
- Manuscript preparation for journal submission

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# SPRING 2026 | MARY FOWLER

## MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

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*“A Study of Racial Bias and Equity in Jury Selections from a Legal and Statistical Perspective in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts”*

- Building on racial profiling work in Massachusetts
- Collaboration with co-authors to study several courthouse selection processes
- Reviewing the uses of peremptory challenges

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# SPRING 2026 | HY GINSBERG

## MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

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### *“Latin Squares: Research into Two Open Questions”*

- Examination of two unsolved questions in mathematics
- Utilizing Stinson’s “design theory”
- Potential publication for success in solving either of the questions OR for the development of techniques towards solution

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# SPRING 2026 | ROSS GRIFFITHS

## LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

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*“The Road to Heritage: How Automobile Travel Influenced Heritage Tourism in New England, 1900-1920”*

- Building skills and knowledge about scholarly sources to heritage site development in New England
- Sharpening research and writing skills in a long form paper
- Contributing to public history through presentation, paper, and conferences

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# SPRING 2026 | JENNIFER HOOD-DEGRENIER

## BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

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*“Building Collaboration Between WSU and UMass Chan Medical School to Enhance Cancer Research Opportunities for Students and to Build a Ph.D. Pipeline”*

- Grant funded research into the Twist1 protein, which directs the expression of other genes and plays a role in metastasis
- Collaboration in cutting-edge research on breast cancer with opportunities for students to engage
- Working with UMass Chan to help WSU students to consider and demystify experience a Ph.D. program in biomedical sciences

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# SPRING 2026 | CHRISTINA KANIU

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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### *“Kenya Trip Initiative Expansion”*

- To bring teachers/librarians from Ol Kalou areas to WSU to learn about our education system
- Expand existing biannual Kenya trip and course in literacy, research funding support for graduate and undergraduate students
- Develop organizations partners and business plan



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# SPRING 2026 | KYLE MARTIN

## VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

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### *“Bridging Music Cognition. Theoretical Analysis, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Composition”*

- Analysis of film scores, classical and contemporary composers
- Creation of compositions that blend contemporary and classical forms
- Incorporation of digital tools to prepare students for music education

# SPRING 2026 | MIM PLAVIN-MASTERMAN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

## *“Seeing and understanding Implications of Social Class Differences in the Undergraduate Management Classroom”*

- Collaboration with colleagues to examine who goes to what college and why and the approach to students of varying backgrounds
- Survey students, their choice of major and minor, their needs for support
- Publishable material on pedagogy and submission to two major conferences in the field

# SPRING 2026 | JOSEPH QUATTRUCCI

## CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

*“Electronic Structure Calculations of the Dissociative Chemisorption of Molecular Hydrogen Over Graphene Doped with Transition Metal Clusters” and “Development of a Quantum Dynamics Code for the Investigation of Hydrogen Storage on Graphitic Materials”*

- Will utilize the Vienna ab-initio Simulation Package (VASP) to perform time consuming calculations
- Examining the dynamics of a process using coding and testing, moving to publication of results
- Bringing new opportunities to WSU students regarding the energetics of a system

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# SPRING 2026 | BRANDI SILVER

## PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

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### *“The Effects of Fentanyl Overdose on Anhedonia and Relapse in Rats”*

- Library research and data collections in three experiments on fentanyl impacts of rats
- Collaboration with Tufts University researchers
- Exploring the implications of anhedonia and substance abuse disorder and overdose risk

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# SPRING 2026 | EMILY SOLTANO

## PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

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### *“The Impact of a Learning Assistant Model on Student Metacognition and Course Content”*

- Learning assistants usage protocols and literature review
- Qualitative analyses combined with quantitative analyses of impact on learning assistants themselves and impact on students in courses which utilizes learning assistants
- Focus on increasing diversity and learning differences and Generation Z students

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# Questions?

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Worcester State University