EXECUTIVE BOARD
Minutes of 10 October 2025

Call to Order
The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Executive Board was called to order at 10:30 a.m. on 10 October 2025, in Ellsworth Hall room 3201 and via Webex, by Amy Naugle, president.

Roll Call
Members in Attendance: Osama Abudayyeh, Wanda Hadley, Janet Hahn, Amy Naugle, David Rudge, C. Dennis Simpson, Laura Teichert
Members Absent: Kimberly Buchholz, Anthony DeFulio, Kieran Fogarty
Parliamentarian in Attendance: Decker Hains
Recording Secretary in Attendance: Sue Brodasky, Administrator

Quorum
A quorum was present with seven members in attendance, of the six needed to establish quorum.

Agenda
Unfinished business was move to the start of the agenda due to members needing to leave early.
<u>It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Teichert, to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried.</u>

Minutes
A correction was made.
<u>It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Hadley, to approve the 26 September 2025 minutes as amended. The motion carried.</u>

Unfinished Business
President Naugle explained the need and accommodations established due to one request last academic year which had not been vetted through the Office of Institutional Equity and one request this academic year which was processed with OIE. Following a meeting with OIE it was suggested that a general statement be added to the bylaws. Discussion was held.

Hains introduced the suggested bylaw modification for accommodations. Following discussion, it was suggested to change the title of Article II from vacancies to *"Senate membership participation"*
<u>It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Hahn, to approve Bylaw Article II as amended. The motion carried.</u>

Hains reviewed the proposed bylaw amendment regarding removal of a council or committee officer. Discussion was held. Numbering was reviewed and corrected.
<u>It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Hahn, to approve the Bylaw Article addition as amended. The motion carried.</u>

Reports of Officers
President Naugle provided updates on recent meetings that included:

- WMU President Kavalhuna Meeting Update
  - The discussion included updates on listening sessions and transition team activities.
  - President Kavalhuna affirmed that curriculum is under the purview of the faculty, and he has made that statement publicly as asked.
  - An update on the recent AAUP meeting was also provided.

AAUP Meeting Update:

- President Naugle and Dennis attended a meeting with the AAUP leadership.
- President Naugle explained the reasoning behind her withdrawal from AAUP membership. The discussion was cordial and professional.
- The issue of MOA interference was not clarified; however, there was agreement that the Faculty Senate should be removed from the AAUP contract.

- Plans were discussed to establish regular leadership meetings between the two bodies.

Provost Council Update which included several University initiatives and programs:

- Art Hop, WMU Gear Up Grant, Student Geology Club, “She Shed,” and Western Outfitters projects.
- Presentation by Promise Outreach Specialists’ highlighting work addressing reconnection and barriers to re-enrollment.
- Presentation regarding curriculum deactivation processes.
- State budget update indicating a $2 million deficit for the current fiscal year.

Shared Governance Partners Meeting

- Board of Trustees meetings with WSA and GSA have been discontinued; President Naugle will advocate for those meetings to reconstituted.
- Reviewed the proposed agenda for the upcoming Shared Governance Retreat.
- Discussion held regarding coordination between the Well-Being Collective group in WSA and the Faculty Senate. The Executive Board will need to review the proposal.
- President Naugle informed partners about the grading scale discussions and requested data be brought to the Executive Board for consideration.

Experience-Driven Learning Meeting

- President Naugle attended the meeting with Rudge and USC chair Bret Wagner.
- Positions on the EDL Workgroup were discussed, and President Naugle and Rudge were asked to continue to serve as Senate representatives.
- Topics included assessment of student benefits, faculty participation incentives, and communication strategies to clarify that EDL is more than a marketing initiative.

President Naugle and Abudayyeh left the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Vice President Simpson reported:

- A question was raised regarding the Ad Hoc Emeriti committee.
  - Chief of Staff has agreed to serve on behalf of the President’s office.
  - Development has yet to name a representative.
  - Brodasky was asked to finalize the membership as soon as possible.
  - It was requested that an update on the Ad Hoc committee be on the next meeting agenda.
- Meeting with Interim Provost Cheatham is scheduled for next week. Any agenda items should be emailed to the Senate office.
- Simpson noted that President Kavalhuna will not be initiating a provost search and Interim Provost Cheatham has agreed to continue to serve until such time as the president decides to launch a search.

Unfinished Business

Vice President Simpson led a review of the 2 October Faculty Senate meeting. Discussion was held.

Reports of Councils and Committees

Naugle provided the Unaffiliated Units Curriculum Committee report, which included:

- Election of officers was postponed until next meeting due to the absence of several members.
- Both HNRS 2700 and HNRS 4104 were approved.
- Discussion was held regarding First-Year-Experience courses being accepted as WMU Essential Studies course proposal.

Simpson provided the Professional Concerns Committee report via email, which included:

- Amy Zufelt is the co-chair of the joint AITC and PCC subcommittee on defining multiple recommended Artificial Intelligence syllabus statements.
- Student conduct is having referrals within the normal range this semester.
- It was approved for McConnell, with Senate help from Brodasky, to develop an MOA setting deadlines, after an appeal has been filed, for submission of materials supporting the appeal.

Currently there is no deadline, and materials have been submitted up to a year after the initial filing of the appeal.

Hadley provided the International Education Council report via email, which included:

- Council members volunteered to serve the International Education Faculty Development Fund review.
- Council members volunteered to serve the Welcoming International Students subcommittee.
- Council members volunteered to serve the Student Learning outcomes subcommittee.
- Max provided the HIGE report and discussed her priorities, including an international student recruitment plan. Other priorities included support for Collaborative Online International Learning, faculty international research, and expansion of faculty-led study abroad experiences. Discussed was held regarding a visit to the Dominican Republic and the drop in student visa approval. Further discussion was held regarding health insurance for international students and transportation.
- Council members volunteered to serve on a working group that would address transportation issue.
- Bret Wagner, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Council reported on a concern of credit hour transfer of study abroad credit hours.
- Chair Dennis reported progress on planning of the international education week
- Chair Dennis proposed adding Brian Childs as a nonvoting member to the council.
- McMorrow reported on the CHHS international committee. The dean attended the recent meeting and shared insights on study abroad limits. The committee voted on scholarships and established working groups which included: international student and faculty inclusion; international showcase; and global research showcase.
- Wang reported on the HCOB international committee which included faculty champions continue efforts with short-term study abroad programs. The average size is 20 students. Four cohorts of the GOFIE programs, now includes over 1000 Chinese students.
- Gupta reported that the CEAS international committee postpone its meeting because of schedule conflicts.

DeFulio provided the Research and Creative Scholar Council report via email, which included:

- Cheatham reported that the provost office is looking at ways to accommodate untenured faculty whose productivity is dampened by the current political climate. He noted that it will not be as simple as the solution for COVID, which was a one-year stop in the tenure process for anyone who asked.
- RCSC approved language stating that for this academic year, SFSA awardees will not be eligible for FRACAA. This was done to avoid situations like last academic year, in which there were two cases of individual faculty members winning both in the context of having only 10 available of each university-wide. This is a stop-gap for broader revisions of the process that will allow faculty to be more strategic in their approach to internal research support.
- The membership of the charge workgroups was announced. It is planned for the workgroups to complete their work by February to allow for the full council time to provide feedback and revision be made in advance of annual report.

Rudge raised a question regarding junior faculty and a gap-stop in the tenure process needs to be a university-wide discussion and suggested listening sessions be established.

Buchholz provided the Centers and Institutes Committee report via email, which included:

- Chair Hains communicated the direction from Executive Board regarding the committee charges for inventorying centers and institutes, offering leadership advisement on the logistical methods for how to inventory. He reinforced that the committee need not to investigate if and/or why a center or institute exists, but rather just create the inventory.
- One committee member questioned if Cyber Security qualifies as center per definition. Other members disagreed and thought it did clearly qualify. Decker Hains offered a litmus test for inclusion in the inventory.

- Inventory criteria were established including name, classification, college, oversight, director, purpose (research, instruction, clinical, outreach, service).
- Committee member asked if a Qualtrics survey could be sent to deans as a method for the committee to obtain the initial list of centers/institutes that will then be inventoried and documented in more detail by the committee.
- Committee members voice concern that buildings have the word ‘center’ in their name and want to address correcting.

Announcements
Brodasky informed the Executive Board that WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee has failed to elect leadership and there are several vacant member seats. Hahn agreed to serve as liaison.

Rudge expressed concern about the announcement of FARS due date change which is making a tenure clock, that is already impossible for faculty with dual appointments, so much harder. Discussion was held.

Adjournment
Vice President Simpson adjourned the meeting at 11:36 p.m. The Executive Board will meet next on 24 October 2025 at 10:30 a.m. in Ellsworth Hall, room 3201 and via Webex with guest WMU President Russ Kavalhuna.

Approval
Submitted Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator

Minutes were approved 24 October 2025.