
EXECUTIVE BOARD
Minutes of 9 January 2026**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Executive Board was called to order at 10:31 a.m. on 9 January 2026, in Ellsworth Hall room 3201 and via Webex, by Amy Naugle, president.

Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Osama Abudayyeh, Kimberly Buchholz, Anthony DeFulio, Kieran Fogarty, Wanda Hadley, Janet Hahn, Amy Naugle, David Rudge, C. Dennis Simpson, Laura Teichert

Parliamentarian Present: Decker Hains

Guests: Johnathan Bush, WMU Essential Studies Faculty Director; Jessica Cataldo, Chair, Academic and Information Technology Council; Lisa DeChano-Cook, Curriculum Manager; Michael Kahwaji, Chair, Professional Concerns Committee; Anna Popkova, Secretary, International Education Council

Recording Secretary in Attendance: Sue Brodasky, Administrator

Quorum

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

Agenda

It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Teichert, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Minutes

It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Hadley, to approve the 12 December 2025 minutes as provided. The motion carried.

New Business

Wallace was unable to attend the meeting; on her behalf, Bush presented details regarding a forthcoming curriculum proposal. The proposal would transition the First-Year Experience (FYE) 2100 course into a three-credit-hour course and designate it as a Level 1: Inquiry and Engagement course within the Western Michigan University Essential Studies framework. An assessment plan, syllabus, and revised course curriculum are currently under development. The course would be offered exclusively in the fall semester and, at present, carries only elective credit. The stated purpose of the proposed change is to enhance student engagement and improve first-year retention. There are currently 52 Level 1 Inquiry and Engagement Western Michigan University Essential Studies courses serving approximately 616 FYE students; implementation of this proposal would have implications for enrollment in those courses. Bush indicated that, while he views the proposal as conceptually sound, he anticipates potential challenges. Specifically, concerns were raised regarding the transition from staff instructors to faculty-taught FYE courses, noting the need for appropriate faculty oversight of instructional staffing. Opposition was expressed regarding the proposal, suggesting instead that the pedagogical benefits of FYE courses be identified and integrated across all Level 1 courses where feasible. Discussion followed comparing the existing 52 Level 1 courses with the proposed FYE model. It was noted that transfer students are not required to complete Level 1 WES coursework at WMU; Bush clarified that the proposal is intended solely for First-Time-In-Any-College (FTIAC) students. Additional concerns were raised regarding student perceptions of FYE courses, particularly given that the FYE course does not currently apply toward degree requirements and may be viewed as insufficiently engaging. It was suggested that the proposed revisions could proceed without conferring Western Michigan University Essential Studies designation. Following discussion, it was noted that the proposal should advance through the standard curriculum review process.

Action Items

DeChano-Cook introduced MOA-25/12: *Establish Cross-Listed Courses Policy* on behalf of the Undergraduate Studies Council. She provided examples of the many cross-listed courses currently at WMU. Banner is not able to constrict dual enrollment due to WMU's repeated course availability and that

the differences in course numbers and descriptions is anticipated to resolve that issue. Discussion was held.

It was moved by Abudayyeh, seconded by Rudge, to approve MOA-25/11 to be put forward to the Senate at the 5 February, 2026 meeting. The motion carried.

Cataldo, Chair of the Academic and Information Technology Council (AITC), and Kahwaji, Chair of the Professional Concerns Committee (PCC), jointly brought forward MOA-25/14: *Revision of WMU Syllabus Requirements to Include an Artificial Intelligence Statement*. A joint committee composed of representatives from both AITC and PCC was convened to research, evaluate, and develop appropriate language for inclusion in course syllabi addressing the use of artificial intelligence (AI). The committee determined that, provided an instructor includes a clearly defined statement regarding permissible and impermissible uses of AI within the course syllabus, student use of AI technologies will be governed under the existing Academic Integrity Policy administered by the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. This approach affirms faculty autonomy in instructional design while maintaining institutional consistency in the enforcement of academic integrity standards. Cataldo was instructed to revise the MOA to incorporate simplified policy language for formal inclusion in the syllabus requirements. In addition, the revised MOA will reference a set of suggested AI syllabus statements to be maintained as supporting documentation rather than embedded directly in policy language. Cataldo is expected to submit the revised MOA to the Faculty Senate office in sufficient time for inclusion on the agenda of the next Executive Board meeting.

As Secretary of the International Education Council, Popkova introduced MOA-26/02: *Revision of University-Wide Global Learning Outcomes*. She noted that the existing global learning outcomes are more than ten years old and require revision to reflect current disciplinary standards, pedagogical practices, and updated external references. Popkova outlined specific areas in which the outcomes contain outdated language and links that necessitate correction. It was questioned why the proposed revisions did not include additional language changes to increase the measurability of the outcomes, such as replacing phrasing that references students' "ability to demonstrate" with language stating that students "demonstrate" specific competencies. In response, it was clarified that the intent of the university-wide outcomes is to remain broad and flexible, allowing faculty across diverse disciplines to interpret and apply them appropriately within varying curricular contexts. Popkova was directed to return the MOA to the IEC for further revision such as the language, as suggested to enhance clarity and measurability, be modified while maintaining the outcomes' intended breadth and applicability.

Reports of Officers

President Naugle reported:

- President Naugle was invited to participate in the Accessible Technology Committee meeting. Due to scheduling constraints, she requested that an Executive Board member serve on the committee in her stead. The next committee meeting is scheduled for 26 January from 2 to 3 p.m. Hahn volunteered to represent the Executive Board.
- President Naugle attended a meeting of the Policy Committee, during which several policies were reviewed, including those related to hazing, animals on campus, foreign talent, and the Principal Investigator (PI) policy. General Counsel Hahn affirmed that, going forward, he will verify whether policies under review originated with the Faculty Senate prior to advancing them, in order to ensure appropriate governance review and compliance with shared governance processes.
- President Naugle addressed an email received from Mingus, Director of Academic Labor Relations, which requested that the Faculty Senate comply with the AAUP agreement requiring that memoranda of agreement (MOAs) be forwarded to the AAUP for review prior to administrative approval.
- President Naugle reported on a meeting with Provost Cheatham, during which he expressed frustration regarding delays in the announcement of program review planning.
- President Naugle met with Lewis, Director of the Office of Faculty Development (OFD), who conveyed concerns regarding the restructuring of WMUx. Specifically, concerns were raised about the placement of OFD oversight under the Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, a role that is not held by a faculty member.

Vice President Simpson reported he was unable to attend the meeting with Provost Cheatham and had nothing further to add.

Reports of Councils and Committees

Abudayyeh provided the Campus Planning and Finance Council report via email, which included:

- Kristen Salomonson, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, presented strategies for recruitment, retention, and financial aid packaging. She addressed CPFC *Charge 6*.
- Chair Guth reported that CPFC is revising an MOA to address the deadline for dropping courses as proposed by the Registrar. She is working with USC and GSC to jointly sponsor the MOA.
- VanderVeen reported that Facility Services is awaiting the impact of SRM.
- Jeff Spoelstra reported on the submitted student proposals. He has been working with the students to ensure these projects are successful.
- Heasley reported that an appointed workgroup has begun work on CPFC *Charge 1* related to campus sustainability hubs, which is an inventory of sustainability projects throughout campus.

Announcements

President Naugle announced that President Kavalhuna has had a conflict arise for the 23 January meeting. It was suggested that he be rescheduled to 10 a.m. on 13 February prior to the Shared Governance retreat that begins at 11. Staff was asked to make those arrangements. Provost Cheatham had been scheduled for the 13 February meeting so staff was asked to reschedule him for 23 January.

Adjournment

President Naugle adjourned the meeting at 12:04 a.m. The Executive Board will meet next on 23 January 2026 at 10:30 a.m. in Ellsworth Hall, room 3201 and via Webex.

Approval

Submitted Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator

Minutes were approved 23 January 2026.