



Modernizing for Today's Campus Planning Needs



Campus Planning & Finance Council
Presented by LuMarie Guth, April 30, 2026



**WESTERN
MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY**

Why This Update Matters

Campus planning today requires attention to:

- Sustainability
- Wellbeing
- Accessibility
- Safety & Security
- Financial Stewardship
- Campus Experience

This framing reflects how institutions plan today.



This Reflects Existing Practice

During 2025–26, CPFC already considered these issues through its work on:

- Deferred maintenance and capital planning
- Accessibility and campus connectivity
- Space utilization and office planning
- Student success and retention
- Sustainability committee development
- Major construction and partnership projects

This reflects current practice rather than expands authority.



Example

Downtown Kalamazoo Project

CPFC reviewed the Event & Athletic Performance Center with discussion of:

- Security and liability
- Pedestrian movement and corridor safety
- Campus-to-downtown connectivity
- Accessibility considerations
- User experience and wellbeing
- Long-term institutional impacts

A clear example of modern planning concerns already in practice.



Example

Campus Planning & Facilities

Council reviewed:

- Five-year capital outlay plan
- Construction and renovation projects
- Deferred maintenance priorities
- Space utilization trends
- Office Space Task Force updates

Opportunities found to align future projects with sustainability and accessibility values.



Example

Enrollment & Wellbeing

Council reviewed:

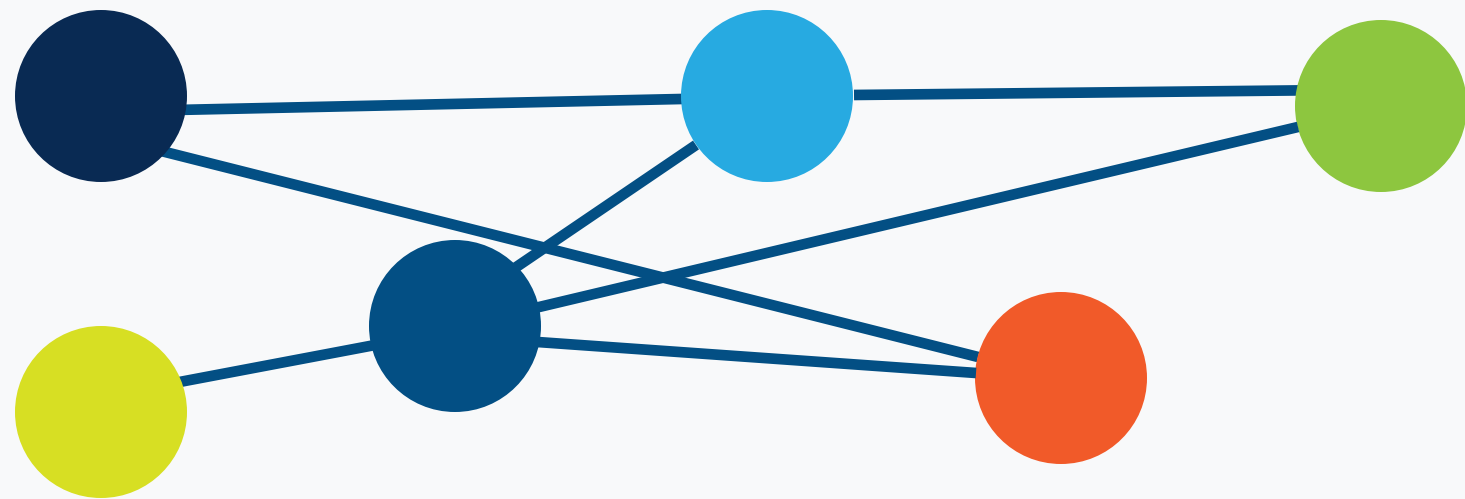
- Enrollment trends
- Recruitment strategies
- Retention initiatives
- Financial aid packaging
- FAFSA disruptions
- Demographic pressures

Recognized that campus wellbeing and student experience influence persistence and success.



2025–26 Major Charge Highlights

Completed or Advanced Work



Budget Review

Provided faculty input on SRM model and impacts

Sustainability Committee

Established committee, formal charges, and coordination framework

Capital Planning

Reviewed capital plans, deferred maintenance, and space utilization

Downtown Project

Reviewed accessibility, safety, and campus connectivity impacts

Recruitment & Retention

Analyzed enrollment trends, aid strategies, and retention efforts

Role Statement

Proposed modernization to include sustainability, wellbeing, accessibility

Shared Governance through Partnership

CPFC's role is to advise administration through faculty perspectives.

Planning decisions benefit from:

- Early consultation
- Broader expertise
- Transparency
- Long-range thinking
- Inclusive problem-solving

This is partnership, not process for process's sake.



Key Takeaways / Looking Ahead



Key Takeaways

- CPFC already engages these issues in practice
- Role revision modernizes language, not scope
- Shared governance strengthens institutional decisions



Looking Ahead

- Continue work on planning and budgets
- Advance sustainable and accessible campus development
- Align governance structures with today's campus needs