
**PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
Minutes of January 21, 2026**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Professional Concerns Committee was called to order at 12:30 p.m. on 21 January 2026, via Webex by Kahwaji, chair.

Members Present: Thomas Gorczyca, Jennifer Foster, Michael Kahwaji, Mariana Levin, Matilda McLean, Richard Meyer, Marian Tripplett, Amy Zufelt

Advisory Members Present: Eric McConnell; Joe Erskine

Ex Officio: Dennis Simpson

Quorum

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

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by McLean, seconded by Zufelt, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Levin, seconded by Simpson, to approve the 10 December 2025 minutes as provided. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Kahwaji reported that MOA-25/14 was met with recommended amendments from the Executive Board at its meeting.

Ex Officio Simpson stated that MOA-25/14 has been returned to both PCC and AITC for revision prior to going forward to the full Senate.

Reports of University Representatives

Erskine reported that the Student Rights and Responsibilities office is busy and there are holdovers from fall finals. The department is interviewing to fill the director's position, which is expected to be finalized by the end of February.

McConnell provided the Office of the Ombuds report, which included that this is the busiest semester with primarily hardship appeals. McConnell reported an increase in students being issued academic grade penalties or sanctions without being referred to Rights and Responsibilities, which is against policy. MOA-19/03 states in part, "*No academic sanction shall be assessed without a finding of responsibility through this process.*" It was suggested to address this by asking President Naugle to provide verbal and written reminders to the faculty body.

[MOTION] It was moved by Meyer, seconded by Gorczyca, to request Faculty Senate communication to the full faculty body of this issue. The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Chair Kahwaji and Zufelt provided an update on the results of the AITC review of MOA-25/14, which included requested changes. The technology is rapidly changing and there is diverse use of AI among disciplines and work environments. As a result, there will not be a cut-and-paste statement on AI developed for instructor inclusion on syllabi. A list of resources will be made available to instructors who can review and develop language that fits their expectations. If there is not an AI statement on syllabi, there are no limits to student use with respect to AI use in that course.

[MOTION] It was moved by Zufelt, seconded by Meyer, to approve MOA-25/14 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

None.

Announcements

Simpson announced the upcoming elections for Faculty Senate president, vice president, senators, and council/committee members.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Zufelt, seconded by Gorczyca, to adjourn the meeting at 1:01 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

The Professional Concerns Committee will meet next on 18 February 2026, via Webex at 12:30 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Marian Tripplett, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 18 February 2026