
**CAMPUS PLANNING AND FINANCE COUNCIL
Minutes of 17 February 2026 Meeting****Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Campus Planning and Finance Council was called to order at 3:05 p.m. on 17 February 2026, via Webex by LuMarie Guth, chair.

Members Present: Todd Barkman, Cheryl Bauman-Bruey, Shonda Buchanan, Kristhyna Fermin, Kim Ganzevoort, LuMarie Guth, Lynne Heasley, Brittani Jackson, Valerian Kwigizile, Nicholas Rowe, Colleen Scarff, Jan Van Der Kley, Sara VanderVeen

Members Absent: Mia Breznau, Wayne Stitt

Advisory Members Present: Sara Nelson, Jeff Spoelstra

Ex Officio: Osama Abudayyeh

Quorum

A quorum was present with 13 members in attendance, of the nine needed to establish a quorum.

Acceptance of the Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Bruey, seconded by Heasley, to accept the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Prior meeting minutes were not available for review and approval.

Campus Master Plan

VanderVeen reported on the [WMU 5-Year Capital Outlay Master Plan](#) and processes, which were published in October 2025. She noted improvements to the format of the 5-Year Capital Outlay Master Plan. The revised format is shorter, focused on a five-year planning window, and incorporates relevant deferred maintenance information. The report is updated annually, approved by the Board of Trustees, and submitted to the State of Michigan in late October. The 2025 report identifies Knauss Hall as the current priority project for State funding. Future reports will align more closely with the Campus Master Plan, with updates and revisions occurring concurrently. VanderVeen indicated that a Space Advisory Committee working group is being formed to address related planning efforts and is expected to meet in the coming weeks. Council members recommended that future revisions acknowledge that institutional values may conflict, that values are associated with distinct constituencies, and that early and meaningful input from those constituencies should be incorporated into planning processes.

Examples were provided where committee input was not solicited, including recent matters related to Asylum Lake, the Huron Group Consulting engagement, and reconsideration of the institutional budget model. Additional discussion addressed leadership transitions, as well as the timing and pace of emerging issues and opportunities. The council expressed concern about communication regarding the potential future management of the Asylum Lake Preserve by Kalamazoo County. The Asylum Lake Policy and Management Council was first notified of an upcoming meeting concerning preserve management via email distributed on 24 December 2025. The initial meeting was scheduled off campus at 2 p.m. during classes, limiting the ability of many individuals to attend. A subsequent meeting opportunity occurred on 12 February in the evening; however, this was following the acceptance of a memorandum of understanding by the Board of Trustees, initiating the first step of a three-step process. Discussion reflected uncertainty among constituencies regarding whether management by the County referred to park management or preserve management. While overall support for collaboration is anticipated to be strong, members noted that constituencies responsible for ecological restoration and preserve stewardship over the past two decades indicated that confusion and concerns could have been mitigated through a more deliberate and accessible communication process. Council members recommended that a future meeting include focused discussion on establishing early, accessible, and meaningful stakeholder engagement practices. A related discussion is currently underway within the CPFC Sustainability Standing Committee.

Kwigizile and Buchanan joined the meeting at 4 p.m.

Reports of Officers

Chair Guth reported that the Undergraduate Studies Council agreed to co-sponsor Memorandum of Action-26/06: *Revision of the Undergraduate Catalog Extension of the Drop/Withdrawal Period* following the removal of one bullet related to midterm grades. The MOA proposes extending withdrawal deadlines by two weeks during the fall and spring semesters and by one week during summer terms. This approach had previously been implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic and was later rescinded. The Graduate Studies Council has not yet provided feedback. It was noted that the MOA is intended to support student success and may benefit from additional student input. It was suggested that the University Ombuds may have an interest in reviewing the proposal, particularly given that approximately 51% of students do not receive midterm grades. Chair Guth will reach out to the Ombuds, and Fermin will request that the Graduate Student Association review the MOA.

Council members were directed to the Faculty Senate Snapshot publication for additional details regarding the most recent meeting. The next strategic plan theme will focus on research.

Council members were invited to participate in a discussion regarding the budget model scheduled for 3 March at 4 p.m. Chair Guth requested input via email prior to the meeting. It was also recommended that the CPFC Roles and Charges be shared with participants.

Ex Officio Abudayyeh did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

Scarff reported that the Huron Consulting Group is in the process of forming focus groups. Budget leaders have met with deans to discuss the possibility of one-time revenue sharing. The State of Michigan budget is currently under development, with no proposed base funding increase for higher education; however, continuation of one-time support from the previous cycle is anticipated. Deferred maintenance funding is proposed at \$1.7 million. Tuition restraint is currently set at 4%, with a proposed increase to 5%.

VanderVeen reported that favorable bids have been received for the Bill Brown Alumni Football Center project is now mobilizing. The Oakland interior remodel project is progressing, and the associated driveway project will undergo an additional review process to address pedestrian and vehicle conflict concerns. The College of Health and Human Services is undergoing a comprehensive infrastructure assessment with a consultant. A Space Advisory Committee work group is being formed. Inclusion of Disability Student Services was suggested, and it was noted that the President's Cabinet includes the Office of Diversity and Inclusion as part of the committee structure.

Spoelstra reported that Sustainability Grants have recently been awarded and he provided an overview of recipients. Upcoming initiatives include Green Week in collaboration with the Western Student Association, a main campus garden planning session, and continued work on sustainability data reporting and climate action/decarbonization planning with institutional partners.

Fermin reported on the allocation of Graduate Student Association funds supporting conference travel, professional certifications, data collection efforts, and registered student organization activities.

Reports of the Council Standing Committee

Heasley reported that the Sustainability Committee meeting focused on data visualization tools. Existing lists of sustainability-related groups were used to develop multiple organizational charts, which are currently displayed on a whiteboard in the Office for Sustainability. Committee members reviewed these charts and contributed additional information to enhance accuracy and completeness. The committee expressed interest in developing an interactive, web-based platform to represent sustainability groups and illustrate communication linkages among groups and institutional units. Such a tool would enable users to conduct interactive queries based on topic, keyword, or area of interest, thereby improving transparency and coordination across initiatives. Heasley invited members to submit suggestions via email to support further development of this effort. Discussion also addressed the absence of a centralized institutional intranet, which members identified as a gap in communication infrastructure. The Office for Sustainability indicated a willingness to provide support should external services be required to

advance this initiative. Members emphasized that any publicly accessible web-based content must comply with established digital accessibility standards and be integrated within the institutional content management system.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Heasley, seconded by Abudayyeh, to adjourn the meeting at 4:59 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

The Campus Planning and Finance Council will meet next on 17 March 2026 via Webex at 3 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Jeff Spoelstra, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 21 April 2026.