
WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee

Minutes of 13 January 2025

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee was called to order at 10:01 a.m. on 13 January 2025, via Webex by Carol Weideman, Chair.

Members Present: Jonathan Bush, Lisa DeChano-Cook, Kirsty Eisenhart, Beth Ernst, Anne-Marie Guidy-Oulai, Kwangmin Lee, Matilda McLean, Carol Weideman

Members Absent: Dana Hammond

Advisory Members Present: Jacquelyn Bizzell, Nick Gauthier, Melinda Lockett, Colleen Stano, Sharon Van Dyken

Advisory Members Absent: Anthony Helms, Christine Robinson

Ex Officio Absent: Amy Naugle

Quorum

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

Eisenhart joined the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Ernst, seconded by Mirzeler, to accept the 21/28 October minutes and the 18/25 November minutes pending minor edits. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Weideman reported that TEAMS has meeting notes and an agenda added.

Reports of University Representatives

Bush wants to focus on a proposal for a new concept for an assessment plan that will be broader and open-ended, and create best practices for getting courses approved. Bush will share the WMU Essential Studies portfolio in its entirety. Mustafa asked if an assessment plan at the end of each semester is needed. The answer is "yes". Mustafa asked if the assessment could be eliminated. The answer is "no".

DeChano-Cook did not provide a report.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

The following were discussed:

1. Development of example assessment plans – Chair Weideman shared and explained the document from Bush (in TEAMS). Discussion was held, and amendments were suggested.
2. Development of tools to support faculty for success in proposal development – Chair Weideman shared and explained the spreadsheet for proposals and wants to use those notes to develop examples and create best practices. Breakout sessions for 30 minutes followed. Each team provided feedback.
3. Development of tools to support faculty for success in the cyclic review

Announcements

It was requested that the February meeting be held hybrid. Faculty Senate will reserve a room and provide refreshments. Student Center Room 2209/2211 was requested.

Adjournment

Chair Weideman adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m. The WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee will meet next at 10 a.m. on 17 February 2025 in-person at the Student Center, Room 2209/2211.

Approval

Submitted by Kwangmin Lee, Secretary

Minutes approved on 17 February 2025.