
CENTERS AND INSTITUTES COMMITTEE

Minutes of 10 September 2025

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Centers and Institutes Committee was called to order at 10:04 a.m. on 10 September 2025, via Webex by Buchholz, ex officio.

Members in Attendance: Dustin Altschul, Ron Cisler, Decker Hains, Matthew Ross, Jana Schulman, Lee Wells

Members Absent: Sara Nelson

Guest: Dennis Simpson, Faculty Senate Vice President

Ex Officio: Kimberly Buchholz

Quorum

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

Election of Officers

Buchholz sought nominees and approval for committee chair, vice chair, and secretary. Hains was nominated for chair, Schulman was nominated for vice chair, and Wells was nominated for secretary.

[MOTION] It was moved by Altschul, seconded by Ross, to elect the slate as presented. The motion carried.

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Schulman, seconded by Ross, to accept the agenda. The motion carried.

Minutes

The previous 9 April 2025 meeting minutes do not exist and therefore will not be approved.

Centers and Institutes Committee 2025-26 Charges

Simpson charged the committee and highlighted Charges two, three, and five. Discussion was held regarding the need to clarify the definition of a research center versus a service center and the responsible party for creating this definition. In addition, it was suggested that the Centers and Institutes Committee modify the MOA Statement of Policy from Centers with a primary service-oriented mission to Centers with a solely service-oriented mission.

Reports of Officers

Chair Hains did not provide a report.

Ex Officio Buchholz reported that this year, the Centers and Institutes Committee needs to work on developing a process to inform current Centers and Institutes of the need to file yearly reports and a process for the creation of new centers and institutes. Schulman reminded the Centers and Institutes Committee that a list of potential centers and institutes exists and needs to be updated.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Hains at 11:07 a.m. The Centers and Institutes Committee will meet next on 8 October 2025 at 10 a.m. via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Lee Wells, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 8 October 2025.