
**Campus Planning and Finance Council
Minutes of 16 September 2025**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Campus Planning and Finance Council was called to order at 3:01 p.m. on 16 September 2025, via Webex by LuMarie Guth, chair.

Members Present: Abigale Airo, Todd Barkman, Cheryl Bauman-Bruey, Mia Breznau, Shonda Buchanan, Kim Ganzevoort, LuMarie Guth, Lynne Heasley, Brittani Jackson, Valerian Kwigizile, Nicholas Rowe, Colleen Scarff, Wayne Stitt, Sara VanderVeen

Members Absent: Jan Van Der Kley

Advisory Members Present: Sara Nelson, Jeff Spoelstra

Ex Officio: Osama Abudayyeh

Guest(s): Luke Kritzman, Western Student Association, Amy Naugle, Faculty Senate President

Quorum

A quorum was present with 15 members in attendance, of the nine needed to establish a quorum.

Agenda

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Abudayyeh, seconded by Bruey, to approve the 20 May 2025 as presented. With four abstentions, the motion carried.

Reports of Officers

President Naugle reported Campus Planning and Finance Council Charges for 2025-26. Naugle exited the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

Chair Guth reported the highlights of the last Faculty Senate meeting. The WMU general counsel described how the university is assisting international students. There will not be a May council meeting, which tightens the timeline this year for Campus Planning Finance Council business.

Kritzman entered the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

Ex Officio Abudayyeh did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

Scarff reported that the Board of Trustees passed a budget in June. WMU is waiting to hear about the State of Michigan budget details. From a tuition standpoint, enrollment is down 1.6%, but WMU planned for a drop of 1.7%. The Available surplus has been used recently. Demographics remain a long-term challenge. Recent increases in retention are helping. WMU is watching how the state is funding community colleges. Cuts are expected in the years ahead.

Discussion was held regarding the Faculty Senate leadership regarding transfer agreements as an opportunity to improve enrollment.

Due to her absences, Van Der Kley did not provide a report.

Discussion was held, indicating Scarff and Van Der Kley plan to alternate meeting attendance as reorganization in Business and Finance roles has merged University Budget and Business and Finance activities. Guth will investigate the impact on quorum.

Nelson acknowledged that transfer agreements are a priority for Provost Cheatham. WMUx went through an administrative review and is undergoing dissolution, and staff members have been positioned in other University units. There is a financial decision or efficiency in instructional delivery. Some duplications of services were eliminated across WMUx. A chart of position changes was displayed. University announcements will be distributed in the weeks ahead. Enrollment is down 1.6%, about 270 students in headcount across undergraduate and graduate. International enrollment is better than anticipated. WMU did better in domestic non-residents than expected. Related to charges, across the board compared to most schools. The challenge increases when the larger schools open their admissions to students deeper on waitlists. To make WMU students first choice in Michigan, Nelson encourages the council to explore recognizing niche programs that are growing or have the potential for rapid growth. Aligning student interests and resources. Consider more out of state recruitment. Further discussion would be helpful on access, rigor, accreditation, and mid-term grade deadlines.

Proudfoot did not provide a report due to absence.

Discussion was held regarding Golden Oaks, Pedestrian Mall extension, West Hills pickleball, turf at Seelye, Food Marketing Lab, multiple toilet rooms, rappel tower, carpet at Miller, Vandercook Hall removal, and Gilmore Theater entryway. The new Michigan Geological Repository for Research and Education building is in design before going out for bid. Traffic studies are in progress at several ring road intersections. Capital Plans are wrapping up and will be embedded in an updated five-year capital outlay plan that will be submitted for Board approval in October. This will contain a list of project targets for the next five years. The outlay request goes to the state. Working through deferred maintenance with a five-year look-ahead. A discussion was held regarding the partial closure of the Miller parking structure. An engineering report expected in October for the structure. Facilities Management (FM) is closely looking at information in the Master Plan to understand utilization and sustainability of all spaces including energy, square footage, space needs, space uses, and vacant spaces. The Master Plan identified buildings that are not long-term and identified renovation opportunities. The team worked with Building Coordinators to tour spaces and answer questions. The 25 Live system is not necessarily 100% representative of what is happening across campus. There are extra spaces compared to staffing numbers. Ways to collect new ideas is being explored. The goal is to have a vibrant campus that students want to attend. FM is considering improvements to the project request process.

Spoelstra reported that the University is being encouraged to move into action planning and implementation of the Sustainability section of the WMU Strategic Plan. Collaborators are quantifying greenhouse gas emissions, conducting a University-wide ranking and rating survey, and writing a new WMU Climate Action Plan. The Office for Sustainability is planning to address student inquiries and take actions that make campus sustainability efforts more visible; identify collaborative action opportunities; and connect separate communication networks. The Office and students will present at the 30 October 2025 Board of Trustees meeting.

Kritzman reported the recent Assembly meeting included 128 students. There are 297 Registered Student Organizations. Allocations has already awarded \$195,000, which is ahead of normal. Students attended the topping off ceremony of the Golden Oaks Residence Hall. Breznau will attend future Campus Planning Finance Council meetings for WSA.

Kritzman and Kwizile left the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Airo reported that graduate ambassadors connect graduate students with campus offerings, interface with prospective students, and address graduate student needs. Fall welcome events were held by the Graduate College. Graduate Student Association (GSA) meetings are underway. Graduate student compensation remains an area of discussion. GSA is hearing from students that WMU is different than their previous institutions with more graduate student engagement opportunities

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Heasley reported that the standing committee is being seated with a cap of 15 members including six faculty and three staff members and two student members. Several Campus Planning Finance Council charges and roles overlap with campus sustainability and the committee is compiling those. Information of University-wide relationships that already exist are creating opportunities of University-wide

communications channels, priorities, initiatives, and aspirations. Charges are developed by the council and given to the committee. Encourage a way Broncos can report out about campus culture of sustainability. Students have asked many curious questions about what the University is doing to advance sustainability.

Barkman and Breznau exited the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

New Business

Chair Guth reported that the Campus Planning Finance Council End of Year Report will be provided to the Campus Planning Finance Council members prior to its completion. Scarff is willing to present Strategic Resource Management. Will share deans' feedback. Deans and Cabinet is empowered for any changes.

Discussion was held regarding the advisory nature of Campus Planning Finance Council role, potential impacts of free community college programs, and the role of MOAs and reports in the charges. There will be consideration of withdrawing the deadline change suggested last year. The Registrar will be invited to explore the topic. For the November meeting the council will take up the topic of Strategic Resource Management Budget. Chairs of the Undergraduate Studies and Graduate Studies Councils will be invited to a future meeting. Proudfoot requested being removed from the Campus Planning Finance Council.

VanderVeen reported on the Pedestrian Green Space Project targeted for completion in October. SITES certification is being pursued, which is similar to LEED certification, but for outdoor environment sustainability and environmental integrity

Jackson exited the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Bruey, seconded by Abudayyeh, to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Campus Planning and Finance Council will meet next on 21 October 2025 on Webex at 3 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Jeff Spoelstra, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 21 October 2024.