
WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee

Minutes of 20 October 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 20 October 2025, via Webex by Elissa Allen, Ex Officio.

Members Present: Lisa DeChano-Cook, Anne Marie Guidy-Oulai, Dana Hammond, Kwangmin Lee, Mustafa Mirzeler, Marie Moreno, Katherine Suender, Kathryn Wagner

Members Absent: Jonathan Bush, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Matilda McLean, Agatha Slupek, Nathan Tabor

Advisory Members Present: Lucy Kent-Bracken, Melinda Lockett, Colleen Stano, Sharon VanDyken, Destiny Wallace

Advisory Members Absent: Jacquelyn Bizzell

Ex Officio Present: Elissa Allen, Janet Hahn

Guest Present: Kelly McDonnell, Counseling Education, Counseling P

Quorum

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

Elections

Ex Officio Allen led the elections for chair.

[MOTION] It was moved by DeChano-Cook, seconded by Allen, to elect Katherine Suender as chair. The motion carried.

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Hammond, seconded by DeChano-Cook, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Lee, seconded by Lyon-Callo, to accept the 21 April 2025 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Ex Officio Allen charged the committee.

Chair Suender did not provide a report. The committee was provided with details of its roles and responsibilities per Bush's request.

Ex Officio Hahn did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

DeChano-Cook suggested scheduling meetings for each Monday during November to prepare for an expected influx of course proposals. The Faculty Senate staff will be asked to create the calendar invites.

Unfinished Business

Chair Suender led the review of the pending curriculum proposals.

[MOTION] It was moved by Hammond, seconded by Allen to approve the following list of curriculum proposals. The motion carried.

- AAAS-3140-The Black Community, Historical and Contemporary Perspectives
- AE – 4802 – Spacecraft Design
- HIS – 3280 – African American History and Culture
- HISP-1240-Indigenous Languages and Cultures in the Americas

- HIST-3300-Canadian History and Culture
- HOL – 3350 – Introduction to Stress Management
- ECON – 1080 – Global Economic Challenges and Trends
- ECON – 3150 – Sports Economics
- AAAS – 3050 – Black Lives Matter: Race, State Violence, and Social Movements
- COM- 4840- Health Communication
- NUR-4330-Population Based Nursing- RN

New Business

Chair Suender postponed the following list of curriculum proposals to the next meeting.

- AAAS – 3700 – Women and Environmental Justice: An African Perspective
- AAAS – 4000 – Race, Class, and Motherhood
- EM – 3020 – Engineering Teams: Theory and Practice
- EM – 4020 – Engineering Leadership
- PHIL – 3040 – Ethics Bowl
- PHIL – 3310 – Moral Philosophy
- PHIL – 3320 – Theory of Knowledge
- PHIL – 3330 – Metaphysics

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Chair Suender adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m. The WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee will meet next on 3 November via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Kwangmin Lee, Secretary

Minutes approved on 3 November 2025.