

CENTERS AND INSTITUTES COMMITTEE

Minutes of 12 November 2025

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Centers and Institutes Committee was called to order at 10:02 a.m. on 12 November 2025, via Webex by Decker Hains, chair.

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

Members Absent: Dustin Altschul, Sara Nelson

Ex Officio: Kimberly Buchholz

Quorum

A quorum was present with five members in attendance; of five was needed to establish a quorum.

Agenda

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Schulman, seconded by Cisler, to approve the 8 October 2025 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Chair Hains reported that one of the committee's goals for this academic year is to develop a list of centers and institutes that are under the privy of the Faculty Senate and provide it to the Provost's Council. Another goal is to develop an electronic process to create new centers and institutes.

Ex Officio Buchholz did not provide a report.

Unfinished Business

Schulman reported on the creation of the Centers and Institutes Comprehensive List. Initially, Schulman reached out to the College of Education and Human Development to amend its list. The Haworth College of Business list has yet to be updated. Ross provided a thorough list of Centers and Institutes across the University. This list will act as the primary comprehensive list for modification. Each committee member should determine, with the assistance of the college deans, the functions of each center and institute in order to modify and update this primary comprehensive list. The council and institute functions should be categorized as Service, Research, Teaching, Instruction, and/or Clinical.

Again, concerns were expressed regarding a need for clearer definitions and a reporting approach that accounts for a center's function that has changed. The Clifford Center was put forward as an example of a center's function that has changed.

New Business

None.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Hains at 11:04 a.m. The Centers and Institutes Committee will next meet on 10 December 2025 at 10 a.m. via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Lee Wells, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 10 December 2025