
PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Minutes of 10 December 2025

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Professional Concerns Committee was called to order at 12:39 p.m. on 10 December 2025, via Webex by Michael Kahwaji, chair.

Members Present: Jennifer Foster, Michael Kahwaji, Mariana Levin, Matilda McLean, Shrabanti Roy (substitute for Richard Meyer), Marian Tripplett, Amy Zufelt

Member Absent: Thomas Gorczyca, John Miller

Advisory Members Present: Eric McConnell, University Ombuds; Joe Erskine, Students Rights and Responsibilities

Ex Officio: C. Dennis Simpson

Quorum

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

Agenda

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Levin, seconded by Zufelt, to approve the 19 November 2025 minutes. With one abstention, the motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Chair Kahwaji reported that the joint Professional Concerns Committee/Academic Information Technology Council (PCC/AITC) recommendation and the Academic Appeals Review revised timeline was submitted to the Faculty Senate.

Ex Officio Simpson and McConnell will meet with the Faculty Senate Executive Board about the Memorandum of Action (MOA) outlining the revised timeline for the academic appeals process. Faculty Senate Executive Board will be meeting with the President's Office to discuss potential budget and reorganization impact on academic affairs.

Reports of University Representatives

Erskine reported that the Students' Rights and Responsibilities Office is experiencing an increase in activity.

McConnell reported that the Ombuds office is experiencing the busiest time of the semester, which may extend through February with hardship withdrawals and academic/grade appeals. The positive response for more individuals to serve on appeal committees provides improved scheduling and better rotation among available members.

Unfinished Business

Zufelt reported that the Artificial Intelligence (AI) statement needs an MOA assigned number and anticipates PCC will be review the final document at the January 2026 PCC meeting.

New Business

McConnell provided an update on the December commencement with the new format that includes changes in the program flow and designated speakers that emphasizes success and the importance of relationships in the student experience.

Ex Officio Simpson requested that the March 2026 agenda include a discussion of all PCC “charges” that must be approved by April 2026 so they can move forward to the Executive Board in May 2026.

Announcements

Erskine announced that the director positions have been posted and will close on 16 December 2025.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Foster, seconded by Levin, to adjourn the meeting at 1:14 p.m. The motion passed. The Professional Concerns Committee will meet next on 21 January 2026, via Webex at 12:30 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Marian Tripplett, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 21 January 2026.