
Undergraduate Studies Council

Minutes of 10 February 2026

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Undergraduate Studies Council was called to order at 3:01 p.m. on 10 February 2026 via Webex video conferencing by Bret Wagner, chair.

Members Present: Jessica Cataldo, Lisa DeChano-Cook, Kerry Hegele, Dave Karowe, Irma Lopez, Dylan McGlothlin, Natalio Ohanna, Diane Riggs, Priyanka Sharma, Bret Wagner

Members Absent: Mert Altihan, Jessica Birnbaum, Carrie Cumming, Yuanliang Sun

Advisory Members Present: Coleen Stano

Advisory Members Absent: Tomika Griffin-Brown

Ex Officio: David Rudge

Guests: Kristen Salomonson, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management

Quorum

A quorum was present with 11 members in attendance, of the eight needed to establish quorum.

Agenda

The agenda was amended to add a discussion of MOA 25/10: *Establish Minimum Undergraduate Credits in a Major or Minor Earned at WMU to New Business.*

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by DeChano-Cook, seconded by Ohanna, to approve the 13 January 2026 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Wagner reported that the first meeting for the Experiential Learning Committee will be in February. Membership has yet to be finalized.

Santo joined the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Ex Officio Rudge's report included

- The Marketing and Communications Experience Driven Learning Workgroup is planning an all-day retreat on Thursday, 19 March from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Rudge will be attending. The goal of the retreat is to expand the number of people involved in the next steps of promoting experience driven learning throughout campus. Attendees will include half administration and half faculty and is by invitation only.
- The Executive Board discussed the proposed concept of first-year experience courses to be included in the WMU Essential Studies program. The Executive Board confirmed that USC would not be involved in the process until and if the proposal is created as a curriculum revision. The process will include, in this order the [Unaffiliated Units Curriculum Committee](#) and [WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee](#). If FYE becomes a WMU Essential Studies course staff could not serve as instructors. Additionally, FYE would be modified from two credits to three credits.

Reports of University Representatives

Curriculum Manager Lisa DeChano-Cook reported:

- MOAs were sent to Faculty Senate office for review.

- Curriculum proposals for new minor programs will be forthcoming, as the social studies program is being revised.

Academic Advising Colen Stano reported:

- Undergraduate students are encouraged to meet with advisors before fall registration opens.
- Barriers to meeting with advisors are being identify and availability is being expanded.
- To date there are 1,684 appointments scheduled this semester.
- Faculty are encouraged to post mid-term grades, which are due 16 March, in order for advisors to assist students planning for summer and fall semesters.

Reports of Standing Committees

Transfer Credit Committee Jessica Cataldo reported that the meeting was canceled due to University weather closure.

New Business

DeChano-Cook presented MOA-25/10: *Establish Minimum Undergraduate Credits in a Major or Minor Earned at WMU*. The MOA is designed to ensure that transfer students are required to take a minimum number of credits through WMU in order to earn a degree. Departments can opt to require additional credits but may not decrease credits. The minimum number of unique credits (no cognates) in a major is 24.

[MOTION] It was moved by Riggs and seconded by Karowe, to approve MOA 25/10 as revised. The motion carried unanimously.

Lopez joined the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Unfinished Business

Chair Wagner introduced MOA-26/04: *Revise the Undergraduate Catalog Graduation Requirements*.

[MOTION] It was moved by DeChano-Cook, seconded by Riggs, to approve MOA 26/04. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Wagner led discussion regarding revision of MOA-18/05: *Creation of Undergraduate GPA Revision Policy*, which included:

- Proposed changing the number of courses that could be considered from three to five.
- Courses taken multiple times count as one revision instead of one revision for each time the course is taken
- Eliminating the limitation of revisions only in the first three semesters at WMU
- Include exploratory studies courses for those who have not declared a major
- Change to four semesters, not including summers, but ALPA students cannot declare a major for their first year

Chair Wagner opened discussion regarding USC Charge 5: *Explore opportunities, threats, and challenges with respect to Artificial Intelligence as it relates*. Cataldo chairs the Academic and Information Technology Council and will serve as collaboration between the two councils. This agenda item will be continued at the next meeting. Ohanna will provide examples of techniques used in the classroom pertaining to AI.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by DeChano-Cook, seconded by Rudge, to adjourn the meeting at 4:52 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Undergraduate Studies Council will meet next on 17 March 2026 via Webex at 3 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Dylan McGlothlin, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 17 March 2026.