
WMU ESSENTIAL STUDIES COURSE REVIEW AND APPROVAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of 16 March 2026

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 a.m. on 16 March 2026, via Webex by Katherine Suender, Chair.

Members Present: Lisa DeChano-Cook, Anne Marie Guidy-Oulai, Dana Hammond, Kwangmin Lee, Matilda McLean, Agatha Slupek, Katherine Suender

Members Absent: Jonathan Bush, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Marie Moreno, Nathan Tabor, Kathryn Wagner

Advisory Members Present: Jacquelyn Bizzell, Lucy Kent-Bracken, Melinda Lockett, Sharon VanDyken

Advisory Members Absent: Colleen Stano, Destiny Wallace

Ex Officio Present: Elissa Allen, Janet Hahn

Quorum

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

Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by DeChano-Cook, seconded by Slupek, to approve the 16 February 2026 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Suender did not provide a report.

Ex Officio Hahn reported that the Faculty Senate office is currently understaffed and actively seeking candidates to fill the existing vacancy. Additionally, Hahn noted that, following an initiative led by DeChano-Cook, the undergraduate graduation requirement will be revised to 120 credit hours, reduced from the current 122 credit hours.

Ex Officio Allen did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

Allen did not provide the WMU Essential Studies Interim Faculty Director report.

DeChano-Cook did not provide the Curriculum Manager report.

Unfinished Business

Chair Suender postponed review of the committee charges to the next meeting.

McLean joined the meeting at 11:04 AM.

Chair Suender postponed the Assessment Plan Best Practices discussion to the next meeting.

Adjournment

Chair Suender adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m. The WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee will meet next at 10 a.m. on 20 April 2026 via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Kwangmin Lee, Secretary

Minutes approved on 20 April 2026.