

**PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of 18 March 2026

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Professional Concerns Committee was called to order at 12:30 p.m. on 18 March 2026, via Webex conferencing by Kahwaji, Chair.

**Members Present:** Jennifer Foster, Michael Kahwaji, Matilda McLean, Richard Meyer, John Miller, Marian Tripplett, Amy Zufelt

**Members Absent:** Thomas Gorczyca, Mariana Levin

**Advisory Members Present:** None

**Advisory Members Absent:** Joe Erskine; Eric McConnell

**Ex Officio:** C. Dennis Simpson, Faculty Senate Liaison

**Quorum**

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

**Agenda**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Foster, seconded by Zufelt, to accept the agenda as provided. The motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Zufelt, seconded by Foster, to approve the 18 February 2026 minutes as provided. The motion carried unanimously.

**Reports of Officers**

Chair Kahwaji reported that the committee's year-end report will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Ex Officio Simpson reported that the next meeting will be his last as liaison. At the fall committee meeting, elections for leadership will be conducted.

**Reports of University Representatives**

Due to Erskine's absence, there was no Student Rights and Responsibilities report.

Due to McConnell's absence, there was no Ombuds report.

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**New Business**

A new action item for the first fall 2026 meeting will include a discussion of an accessibility concern related to syllabus statement implications. Guests will include Faculty Senate President Jahn Hahn and Melinda Koelling, chair of Mathematics, and Gwen Bostic, WMU Accessibility Compliance Specialist, to inform the committee's discussion of the issue.

Federal student loan restrictions will take effect on 1 July 2026. Projected loan cap reductions are expected to significantly decrease available funding for both undergraduate and graduate students. University-wide discussions at the college and program levels are expected to occur in April 2026 to assess potential impact and response strategies.

**Announcements**

None.

**Adjournment**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Meyer, and seconded by Zufelt, to adjourn the meeting at 12:48 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Professional Concerns Committee will meet next on 15 April 2026, via WebEx at 12:30 p.m.

**Approval**

Submitted by Marian Tripplett, Secretary

Minutes approved on 15 April 2026.