
EXECUTIVE BOARD**Minutes of 12 June 2026****Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Executive Board was called to order at 10:43 a.m. on 12 June 2026, at Ellsworth Hall, room 3201 and via Webex, by Janet Hahn, president.

Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Matthew Dumican, Lofton Durham, Wanda Hadley, Janet Hahn, Amy Naugle, David Rudge, Daniela Schroeter, David Szabla, Laura Teichert, Andre Venter

Members Absent: Decker Hains

Guests: Beth Ernst, WMU Essential Studies Faculty Fellow; Luchara Wallace, Dean, Merze Tate College

Recording Secretary in Attendance: Sue Brodasky, Administrator

Quorum

A quorum was present with 10 members in attendance, of the seven needed to establish quorum.

Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Teichert, to approve the 8 May, 2026 meeting minutes as provided. The motion carried

[MOTION] It was moved by Rudge, second Hadley, to approve the 8 May, 2026 meeting minutes as provided. With two abstentions, the motion carried.

WMU Essential Studies Update

Ernst reported on creation of a new WMU Essential Studies faculty focused website, which has been presented to WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee. The website is expected to launch in the fall. Ernst noted that the project is intended to consolidate information into a single site and reduce confusion. Ernst provided a live demonstration of the website. Suggestions were made and discussion was held.

Wallace requested a future Executive Board agenda item to continue discussion of incorporating First-Year course into WMU Essential Studies.

Action Items

[MOTION] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Szabla, to accept the AITC, CPFC, IEC, RCSC, UUCC, USC, CIC, and WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee year-end reports. The motion carried.

Reports of Officers

President Hahn presented Immediate Past President Naugle with an appreciation plaque.

President Hahn provided an update regarding the meeting with President Kavalhuna. Discussion focused on the Voluntary Employee Separation Program (VESP), which has generated both interest and concern. Concerns regarding potential instructor shortages for spring 2027 were communicated to both President Kavalhuna and Interim Provost Cheatham. It was confirmed that emeriti status will be granted to eligible faculty who meet the established qualifications. University administration expressed a commitment to refilling instructor positions, although concerns were raised regarding delays experienced in recent hiring processes. Administration indicated that consideration will be given to the distribution of applicants to avoid disproportionately affecting individual

units. Discussion also addressed the number of faculty eligible for VESP participation and the anticipated participation rate. Deans have been encouraged to begin planning prior to the September deadline. A question was raised regarding whether a similar program is being offered for associate deans, deans, vice presidents, and other administrators. Hahn clarified that VESP is unrelated to program review activities. It was noted that program review may occur separately and VESP is not intended as a mechanism for unit consolidation. Questions remain regarding the goals and processes associated with future program review efforts.

At Hahn's request, Naugle described her new role as Presidential Fellow, focusing on experience-driven learning and program review. She explained that efforts to clarify WMU's institutional identity will serve as a precursor to program review and emphasized that faculty participation, including involvement through the Faculty Senate, will be central to the process.

Additional updates included Hahn's upcoming presentation to the Board of Trustees on June 25, a meeting with the WSA president and an invitation for future participation in Executive Board meetings, and confirmation that Interim Provost Cheatham will attend the 10 July Executive Board retreat, where discussion will focus on program review planning.

Vice President Rudge report on the recent retirement celebration hosted by the Emeriti Council, which was well organized and successfully executed. Attendance by retirees, however, was lower than anticipated. Discussion suggested that the turnout may reflect broader communication challenges among alumni, emeriti, and retired faculty. Questions were raised regarding the discontinuation of WMU email addresses following retirement and the potential impact on communication with retirees. To strengthen engagement with retired faculty, plans are underway to host a brunch in August and another retirement celebration next year. These events are intended to enhance communication and maintain connections with emeriti and retired members of the University community.

New Business

President Hahn reiterated the administration's proposal for a separate graduate commencement ceremony. Discussion followed regarding the feasibility and potential benefits of the proposal. Hahn indicated that it is not anticipated the proposal will move forward, as it would likely not achieve the desired reduction in ceremony length.

Committee members discussed alternative approaches. It was suggested that the Graduate College consider hosting a special recognition event in addition to the existing commencement ceremony. It was asked whether peer institutions had been consulted regarding their commencement models, and several members shared examples based on personal experience. President Hahn indicated that the Executive Board would be included in discussions if planning for the proposal proceeds.

President Hahn noted that discussion regarding the Faculty Voluntary Early Separation Program (VESP) was addressed previously during the President's report.

President Hahn reviewed the Faculty Senate's role in academic program review, referencing [Memorandum of Action 20/07: Organizational Changes of Academic Units](#). While much of the topic had been discussed earlier, Hahn emphasized that the Faculty Senate Executive Board has a defined role in the review process as outlined in the MOA.

Unfinished Business

President Hahn confirmed the location for the upcoming 10 July retreat will be Colonel's Kitchen, [330 N Drake Rd, Kalamazoo, MI, 49009](#), from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

President Hahn led a discussion regarding expectations for council and committee liaison reports to be distributed to Executive Board members following each council and committee meeting. Hahn explained that liaison reporting previously occurred through verbal updates at Executive Board meetings before transitioning to written reports

distributed by email and incorporated into meeting minutes. The intent is to provide timely information to the Executive Board regarding council and committee activities. Options were discussed for continued reporting processes. It was noted that advance notice of forthcoming Memoranda of Action (MOAs) is particularly helpful. It was suggested to return to verbal reports and requested that such reports be documented in Executive Board minutes. The use of artificial intelligence tools to create concise summaries from meeting notes was discussed. It was questioned whether Executive Board agendas allow sufficient time for verbal reports. Following discussion, Hahn concluded that written reports should continue but remain brief and focused on information requiring Executive Board awareness or action. Brodasky will distribute a sample reporting template.

President Hahn reviewed draft procedures for the first academic-year meetings of Faculty Senate councils and committees prepared by Brodasky. Expectations for those meetings were discussed, and members recommended communicating the procedures to council and committee members as soon as possible and again during the week before classes begin.

Council and Committee Reports

None.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

President Hahn adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m. The Executive Board will meet next on 26 June 2026 at 10:30 a.m. in Ellsworth Hall, room 3201 and via Webex.

Approval

Submitted Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator

Minutes were approved 26 June 2026.