
EXECUTIVE BOARD
Minutes of 8 August 2025**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Executive Board was called to order at 8:16 a.m. on 8 August 2025, in the Student Center room 2209, by Amy Naugle, president.

Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Osama Abudayyeh, Kimberly Buchholz, Anthony DeFulio, Kieran Fogarty, Wanda Hadley, Janet Hahn, Amy Naugle, David Rudge, C. Dennis Simpson, Laura Teichert

Parliamentarian in Attendance: Decker Hains

Guest: Russ Kavalhuna, WMU President

Recording Secretary in Attendance: Magnolia Little, Administrative Assistant II

Quorum

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

Agenda

A topic was added regarding the syllabus statement under Other.

[MOTION] It was moved by Simpson, seconded by Teichert, to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Teichert, seconded by Simpson, to approve the 25 July 2025 minutes as provided. The motion carried.

DeFulio and Rudge joined the meeting at 8:18 a.m.

Review of Executive Board Action Plan

President Naugle reviewed the 2024-25 Executive Board Action Plan, which included:

1. Faculty engagement – partially completed.

- President Naugle will revise and provide the new senator orientation again at the October meeting.
- President Naugle did regularly attend academic forum over the last academic year; however, she is unsure about this year. Interim Provost Cheatham is soliciting feedback regarding the meeting format and schedule.
- It was requested to add a task to this objective for President Naugle to regularly attend the provost council meetings. Interim Provost Cheatham has altered the meeting schedule to once a month with a larger audience and weekly with just the academic deans.
- It was questioned if there was value in creating talking points for, and attending, department meetings as a PR tour. President Naugle suggests scheduling an all-college event for faculty engagement instead. It was suggested that at the Faculty Senate meeting direction should be provided to Senators. If talking points are created the focus should be Senate engagement with invitation to all-college meeting and/or an offer to attend department meetings. Additionally, chairs and directors should be requested to include a Faculty Senate Update item on department meeting agendas.
- It was suggested that the length of time faculty are provided to give feedback on Memoranda of Action be extended. It was suggested that faculty who want to provide feedback on MOAs can request copies of the MOA from the Senate office by email.

2. Artificial intelligence – completed.

3. University identity/direction

- President Naugle reported a request by the Board of Trustees to revise their meeting schedule with her. She indicated to them that she preferred to have it remain the same. She suggested that the topic be discussed with President Kavalhuna. The Western Student Association and Graduate Student Association leadership have asked to meet with President Naugle in September.
- It was requested to add a task to this objective to ensure that the administrative shared governance retreat is rescheduled for the beginning of this academic year.
- Discussion was held regarding a faculty survey and Teichert was asked to create the survey instrument.

4. Address value of higher education

- It was requested that this objective be the main focus of the shared governance retreat. President Naugle suggested that Marketing and Communications be included in the shared governance retreat. It was noted that the experience driven learning committee has not incorporated input from faculty, but rather focuses on governance.
- It was suggested that an Ad Hoc Committee be created pertaining to experience driven learning.
- Hadley and President Naugle were added as the leads for this objective.

5. Faculty Senate included in the AAUP agreement

- Discussion was held regarding the administration bargaining on behalf of the Faculty Senate to remove all language in the AAUP agreement where the Faculty Senate is included.

Fogarty join the meeting at 9:23am

President Naugle reviewed the Strengths, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threats (SWOT) analysis from 2024-25 and led a limited SWOT to revise and update for 2025-26. That included:

- **Strengths:**

- Seek to be professional and collaborative proactively
- The Faculty Senate Executive Board liaisons to council/committee leadership
- New WMU president
- Senate meetings maintain reliable attendance and engagement
- The Executive Board ensures that faculty voices are heard
- Faculty Senate is engaged in shaping the future of WMU
- Faculty are the stewards of the curriculum
 - It was questioned if management of the curriculum process continues to be a strength due to the deficiencies in the electronic processing system and its lack of notifications.
- **Weakness:**
 - Council/committee chairs submitting year-end reports
 - It was suggested that a training be developed for the chairs when drafting the reports
 - Limited awareness and limited engagement between the faculty and the Faculty Senate
 - Defining roles of the Faculty Senate, University administration, and the AAUP. Faculty are unclear of the differences in organizations. Discussion was held.
 - The isolation of faculty is more prominent post COVID pandemic. Downside is lack of awareness of campus activities.
 - MOA feedback, what can be done to solicit more feedback
- **Opportunities**
 - Enhance engagement with WSA and GSA
 - Clarify emeriti oversight and strengthen relations
- **Threats**
 - National climate of higher education
 - Future of SRM
 - Relationship with international students
 - Consistency of council/committee leadership

- No mechanism to address concerns

President Naugle led discussion of the proposed 2025-26 charges for each Faculty Senate council and committee. Discussion was held and edits were made. Charges will be finalized at the next meeting.

WMU President Russ Kavalhuna joined the meeting at 10:21 a.m. President Naugle provided an overview of shared governance. Discussion included faculty engagement, academic forum, experience driven learning, and the faculty research travel fund. President Kavalhuna inquired about the Research and Creative Scholarship Council's role.

The remainder of the agenda was postponed to the next meeting.

Adjournment

President Naugle adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m. The Executive Board will meet next on 22 August 2025 at 10:30 a.m. in Ellsworth Hall, room 3102 and via Webex.

Approval

Submitted Magnolia Little, Administrative Assistant II and Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator

Minutes were approved 22 August 2025.