
EXECUTIVE BOARD
Minutes of 23 January 2026

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Executive Board was called to order at 10:30 a.m. on 23 January 2026, via Webex, by Amy Naugle, president.

Roll Call

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

Members Absent: Osama Abudayyeh

Parliamentarian Present: Decker Hains

Guests Jessica Cataldo, Chair, Academic and Information Technology Council; Lisa DeChano-Cook, Curriculum Manager

Recording Secretary in Attendance: Sue Brodasky, Administrator

Quorum

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

Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Simpson, to approve the Executive Board Minutes of 9 January 2026 as presented. The motion carried.

Action Items

DeChano-Cook introduced MOA-26/01: *Undergraduate Prior Learning Assessment Modification* and MOA-26/03: *Graduate Prior Learning Assessment Modification* on behalf of the Undergraduate Studies Council and the Graduate Studies Council. She provided an overview of the recommended changes. It was noted that MOA-26/01 needs to be revised to ensure all references to “graduate” are corrected to “undergraduate.” Questions were raised regarding Item 1, specifically why the Undergraduate Studies Council (USC) must approve proposals and under what circumstances such approval would occur. DeChano-Cook offered an example for clarification, and discussion followed. There was an inquiry regarding process that was not included; DeChano-Cook responded that while the process is not detailed in the MOA, it has been formally published.

[MOTION] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Hahn, to approve MOA-26/01 and MOA-26/03 to be put forward to the Senate at the 5 February, 2026 meeting. The motion carried.

Cataldo, Chair of the Academic and Information Technology Council (AITC), brought forward the revised MOA-25/14: *Revision of WMU Syllabus Requirements to Include an Artificial Intelligence Statement*.

[MOTION] It was moved by DeFulio, seconded by Fogarty, to approve MOA-25/14 to be put forward to the Senate at the 5 February, 2026 meeting. The motion carried.

New Business

President Naugle introduced the 5 February Faculty Senate agenda. A question was raised regarding whether discussion should be limited given the large number of MOAs under consideration. President Naugle confirmed that discussion may be limited when necessary and that it is her responsibility to communicate such decisions. She expressed that she does not anticipate extensive questions on some of the MOAs but emphasized that she will be mindful in managing and balancing the discussion.

[MOTION] It was moved by DeFulio, seconded by Rudge, to approve agenda for the 5 February, 2026 meeting. The motion carried.

President Naugle explained that the request from the AAUP concerning the forwarding of MOAs will be addressed by including the unit email address in the communication sent to all faculty with the Senate meeting agenda and links to MOAs scheduled for consideration.

President Naugle led discussion regarding topics for discussion with WMU President Kavalhuna at the scheduled 13 February meeting. Topics suggested included:

- Shared Governance Perspectives
 - Senate and AAUP Roles
 - Clarify areas of shared responsibility and areas that are distinct
- Discussion of WMU Identity
 - Potential collaboration on President's "Building Better Humans" Initiative
 - How can shared governance support institutional initiatives
- Institutional Culture and Faculty-Staff Relationships
 - Discuss ways Faculty Senate can contribute to strengthening collaboration and trust
- Opportunities for Faculty Senate Support Moving Forward
 - What are specific issues or initiatives where Senate partnership may be helpful
 - Discuss priorities for coordinated governance work

It was requested that President Naugle communicate to President Kavalhuna and Interim Provost Cheatham the need to address procedures for class operations during WMU weather closures, including the possibility of transitioning to virtual instruction in such instances. Discussion was held regarding courses that are already conducted in a virtual format. It was suggested that the current closure policy be reviewed and updated to reflect these considerations. As the matter pertains to faculty working conditions, it was noted that AAUP participation would be necessary. Further discussion was held.

Reports of Councils and Committees

Fogarty provided the Academic and Information Technology Council report via email, which included:

- Guest Speaker Jacob Neumann provided an Apps Anywhere Initiative update
 - Reviewed the faculty, staff and student access to various apps via a WMU cloud-based system (which now includes limited access for Apple users via the 3ds Max app).
- Chair Cataldo reported on the use and preferences of virtual meeting platforms (Zoom, Teams, WebEx) as reported in the 2025 Faculty Survey.
- Approved revised MOA regarding AI syllabus requirements.
- Holmes reported there will be a significant university wide announcement regarding WMUs Digital Access Project to enforce pending federal requirements for required accessibility throughout all WMU public facing digital systems including all webpages/apps, E-Learning platforms (including any embedded PDFs), Miller tickets...etc. This announcement will include specific faculty links for helpful tools to address specific required compliance measures.

Hahn provided the WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee report via email, which included:

- The committee approved a majority of the transfer courses that had been identified by advisors as WES equivalent during the admissions process. The new procedure allows advisors to follow guidelines and consult departments to make quick decisions about equivalency. The procedure is transfer-student friendly.
- Review of the WMU Essential Studies student learning outcomes began. Bush noted that the SLOs are inconsistent and asked the committee to complete the review prior to the next meeting.
- Ex Officio Hahn again solicited nominations for secretary, to no avail. Chair Allen is content with the current method of creating minutes by recording the meetings and using AI to create a summary.

Rudge was unable to attend the Undergraduate Studies Council.

Buchholz did not provide the Centers and Institutes Committee report.

DeFulio provided the Research and Creative Scholarships Council report via email, which included:

- Work on the charges related to FRACAA/SFSA procedures was completed. RCSC approved the change recommended by the subgroup, which involves switching the order of the due dates such that starting with the next academic year, FRACAA will be due in the fall semester, and SFSA will be due in spring. The goal is to provide a way that allows unsuccessful FRACAA applicants to seek SFSA funding. Under the current system, someone who is awarded SFSA cannot apply for FRACAA in the same academic year, and since FRACAA is bigger, this hinders personal planning. Since this change is strictly procedural, no MOA will be put forward.
- The AI subgroup has made no progress.
- The policies subgroup has produced a "crosswalk" that compares listed WMU ORI policies to RCSC/RPC MOAs. This comparison showed that 27 posted ORI policies have no corresponding MOA, eight posted ORI policies did have a corresponding MOA, and 13 MOAs did not have a corresponding ORI policy. The next step is to develop recommendations regarding which of the policies on the ORI site should have MOAs.
- Informational items were provided regarding spending internal funds. SFSA and FRACAA are still unspent because award determinations are still in process. PPP&E has about \$14 thousand of the available \$20 thousand for the year spent. Travel has about \$132 thousand of the available \$300 thousand spent.

Hadley provided the International Education Council report via email, which included:

- Chair Dennis provided an update on the MOA on SLOs
- Childs provided the HIGE report, which included:

- Update on the recent pause by the US Department of State on visas: the pause relates to immigrant visas, which doesn't include student visas. Gupta mentioned a drop in immigration to the US. Tufail asked what to tell students who are affected by an expanded travel ban. Childs asked they be referred to the ISSS in cases when they have legal questions.
- Update on the 3-year international student recruitment plan (given by Brian due to internet connection interruptions on Rosemary's end). Tarun asked where the funds are coming from: HIGE or the President's office (funds are coming from HIGE).
- Tufail mentioned the international bazaar scheduled for 4 April 4 and asked for suggestions.
- McMorrow reported that the Health and Human Services College international committee met, including the new Dean for Academic Affairs and Alison of Study Abroad joined the meeting, to discuss improvement of CHHS study abroad programs.
- Gupta reported that the Engineering committee met and discussed MetroLink. This is a pilot project that will conclude at the end of this year. It is unknown what will happen to the project after this summer. Students are happy with Metro link in general but also requested expansion of service areas.
- Chair Dennis provided the Welcoming International Students Subcommittee report. Discussion focused on housing challenges faced by international students. Decided to invite Barry Olsen to the next working group meeting for possible solutions.
- Chair Dennis reported on the Global Student Learning Outcomes Committee which will reconvene and review the purpose, possible renaming SLOs into SLO Guide to keep it intentionally broad.
- Chair Dennis distributed an email with a survey regarding assess the effectiveness of the council's practices, that is due by 30 January.
- Metro-Roland announced the Fulbright reception on 6 February from 5 to 7 p.m.

Due to the University weather closure the Campus Planning and Finance Council meeting was canceled.

Simpson provided the Professional Concerns Committee report via email, which included:

- The committee approved the modified MOA-25/14.
- It was noted that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of cases faculty have enacted punishment on students for accused violations of the Code of Conduct either without any referral to Student Conduct or prior to Student Conduct adjudicating the referral. This is in violation of MOA-19/03 which states any violation of the Code of Conduct must be referred to Student Conduct and adjudicated prior to any punishment being enacted on the student. Because of the increase, the PCC passed a motion respectfully asking Faculty Senate President Naugle to remind faculty of MOA-19/03 requirement at the February Faculty Senate meeting. Additionally, the President, Provost, and General Counsel have been informed how the independent actions of faculty could place WMU in a questionable legal position.

Teichert provided the Graduate Studies Council report via email, which included:

- Hearit provided an overview of the All-University Graduate Awards and the InfoReady system that will be used for GSC members to review the awards. The GSC awards ceremony is scheduled for 13 April from 5 to 7 p.m. The election subcommittees were identified.
- Chair Zondag reported that the MOA on Drop/Withdrawal extension has been postponed.
- Ex Officio Teichert reported on several MOAs will be coming to the Faculty Senate floor for a vote in February include a PLA update GSC.
- Byrd-Jacobs reported
 - The Research and Travel Grants, dissertation completion fellowship, and the Thurgood Marshall fellowship, are all due in February.

- WMU submitted Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) Teaching Excellence award nominees.
- The 3-Minute Thesis competition will be 25 February, with Research Poster Day on 9 April, and the All-University Awards celebration on 13 April.
- Graduate Student Appreciation Week is April 6 through 10.
- Fall 2027 will be the 75th anniversary of graduate studies at WMU.
- Curriculum Manager DeChano-Cook reported that there are several MOAs to be voted on at Faculty Senate February meeting.
- Binford/Olvera provided the GSA report
 - The 3-Minute Thesis competition scheduled for 25 Feb. with 10 new presentations. One winner will represent WMU at the regional 3-Minute Thesis conference.
 - The first GSA general assembly meeting will be held on 30 Jan.
 - The GSA Gala is tentatively scheduled for 18 April.
- The sub-committee on Graduate Artificial Intelligence Use Policy focused on the parameters and conceptual framework for the next steps. Chair Zondag will draft an interview protocol and suggest stakeholders conduct fact-finding research.

Adjournment

President Naugle adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m. The Executive Board will meet next on 13 February 2026 at 10 a.m. in Heritage Hall in-person only.

Approval

Submitted Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator

Minutes were approved 13 February 2026.