
EXECUTIVE BOARD
Minutes of 13 January 2026

Call to Order

A special meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Executive Board was called to order at 10:02 a.m. on 13 February 2026, at Heritage Hall State/University High Conference Room, by Amy Naugle, president.

Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Osama Abudayyeh, Anthony DeFulio, Kieran Fogarty, Wanda Hadley, Janet Hahn, Amy Naugle, David Rudge, Laura Teichert

Members Absent: Kimberly Buchholz, C. Dennis Simpson

Parliamentarian Present: Decker Hains

Guests Russ Kavalhuna, WMU President

Recording Secretary in Attendance: Sue Brodasky, Administrator

Quorum

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

Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

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

New Business

President Naugle opened the meeting by outlining the anticipated discussion topics. President Kavalhuna responded to issues submitted in advance, beginning with shared governance perspectives and clarification of distinct versus shared responsibilities. A case study regarding weather-related closures prompted discussion about whether proposed policy modifications should be directed to the Faculty Senate, the American Association of University Professors, or the administration. President Kavalhuna indicated that the President's Cabinet views closures as a AAUP bargained matter, distinguishing union jurisdiction over wages and working conditions from the Senate's authority over academic policy. He acknowledged ambiguity regarding modality decisions during closures and committed to consulting with the AAUP to determine whether flexibility is permissible. He proposed a small working group, one representative each from AAUP, Senate, and administration, to collaboratively recommend a solution.

President Naugle moved discussion to how shared governance can support institutional initiatives, particularly institutional identity and branding. President Kavalhuna noted that the Listening Sessions consistently raised questions about WMU's distinctiveness. He emphasized the need to define what differentiates WMU academically before advancing marketing strategies or program review. He is prioritizing analysis of student yield and retention patterns, including an external review to understand why admitted students choose competitors such as Grand Valley State University. President Kavalhuna requested that the Executive Board propose structured mechanisms for sustained communication and input to strengthen collaborative decision-making moving forward.

Adjournment

President Naugle adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m. The Executive Board will meet next on 27 February 2026 at 10:30 a.m. in Ellsworth Hall, room 3201 and via Webex.

Approval

Submitted Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator

Minutes were approved 27 February 2026.