
EXECUTIVE BOARD**Minutes of 27 March 2026****Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Executive Board was called to order at 10:31 a.m. on 27 March 2026, at Ellsworth Hall, room 3201 and via Webex, 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: C. Dennis Simpson

Parliamentarian Present: Decker Hains

Guests Lisa DeChano-Cook, Curriculum Manager; LuMarie Guth, Chair, Campus Planning and Finance Council; Kimberly Ganzevoort, Vice Chair, Campus Planning and Finance Council

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

The date of the minutes for approval on the agenda was corrected to 27 February
[**MOTION**] It was moved by Teichert, seconded by Rudge, to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Teichert, to approve the Executive Board Minutes of 27 February 2026 as presented. The motion carried.

Action Items

Curriculum Manager Lisa DeChano-Cook presented MOA-25/10, *Revision of the Undergraduate Catalog, Graduation Requirements, and General Requirements for Earning a Bachelor's Degree*, on behalf of the Undergraduate Studies Council. It was clarified that this proposal is not related to MOA-25/08, which had previously been denied. The proposed revision addresses the potential for students to transfer coursework in a manner that results in no courses being completed within their declared major at Western Michigan University. To mitigate this concern, the MOA establishes a minimum number of major credits that must be completed at WMU. Examples were discussed to demonstrate how such situations could occur, although they were noted to be uncommon. A comparable policy has been long established within the College of Arts and Sciences; however, it currently applies only at the college level. The proposed MOA seeks to extend this requirement institution-wide. It was further noted that while this policy establishes a minimum threshold, individual academic programs may require additional credits within the major but may not set requirements below the established minimum. Peer institutions were cited as having similar policies in place. It was observed that smaller majors may be particularly affected by this change. Discussion was held.

[MOTION] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Fogarty, to place MOA-25/10 on the 2 April Faculty Senate agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Curriculum Manager Lisa DeChano-Cook presented MOA-26/05, *Establishment of Equivalency-Level Acceptance of American Council on Education (ACE) Military Credit Policy*, on behalf of the Undergraduate Studies Council. The proposal originated from the Transfer of Credit Committee and was advanced to the Undergraduate Studies Council for consideration. It was explained that military coursework is not evaluated directly by the military but is reviewed and recommended for credit are made by the American Council on Education (ACE). A key concern addressed in the proposal

involves the classification of military coursework by ACE into upper- and lower-division credit. Current institutional practice recognizes only lower-division credit for transfer, which may limit the applicability of military training toward degree completion. The proposed MOA seeks to revise this approach by allowing the acceptance of both upper- and lower-division ACE-recommended military credits, thereby aligning institutional policy with broader transfer-friendly practices. The proposal is framed as a student-centered initiative that supports military-affiliated learners by recognizing the rigor and relevance of their prior learning. Expanding credit acceptance is expected to improve degree efficiency and reduce barriers to graduation for this population. Discussion was held regarding implementation considerations and academic standards.

[MOTION] It was moved by Fogarty, seconded by Rudge, to place MOA-26/05 on the 2 April Faculty Senate agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Faculty Senate President Amy Naugle opened discussion regarding the returned MOA-26/02, *Revision of University-wide Global Learning Outcomes*. It was noted that only minimal revisions had been made to the proposal since its prior review. Concerns were raised regarding the lack of alignment with earlier feedback previously provided by the Executive Board, particularly in relation to clarity, measurability, and the practical implementation of the proposed global learning outcomes. Discussion was held regarding the need for more substantive revisions before further action is taken.

[MOTION] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by DeFulio, to return MOA-26/02 to the International Education Council for further revision based on the minutes of the 9 January, 2026 Executive Board meeting. The motion carried.

Campus Planning and Finance Council

Guth and Ganzevoort raised questions regarding the purpose, direction, and level of engagement of the Campus Planning and Finance Council (CPFC). Guth reported reviewing prior council minutes to better understand its historical function, noting that recent administrative transitions have highlighted structural and operational concerns. It was observed that the council's meetings occurring only during the fall and spring terms, contributes to a perceived lack of meaningful engagement. Members expressed

concern that, despite strong interest in council topics, CPFC has had minimal activity related to Memoranda of Action (MOAs) or formal reporting. Student representatives, in particular, were described as engaged but disappointed by the absence of substantive work. Discussion was held regarding concerns of administrative actions occurring without prior consultation of the CPFC, resulting in the council being uninformed on matters within its scope. President Naugle questioned how to better align council activities with administrative processes and emphasized the need for more proactive engagement. Recommendations going forward included identifying actionable items for CPFC, improving communication pathways with administration, and revisiting prior MOAs for potential updates. It was noted that some topics of interest, such as electric scooters on campus, may fall outside the council's jurisdiction. Additional discussion addressed council membership, including the potential inclusion of an administrative representative from Enrollment Management as a non-voting advisory member. Discussion was held.

Reports of Officers

President Naugle reported that a scheduled meeting with WMU President Kavalhuna was canceled; however, a subsequent phone conversation was held. During that discussion, President Naugle addressed a proposal by President Kavalhuna regarding reassigning signatory authority for Memoranda of Action (MOAs) to his executive assistant. President Naugle advised against this change, emphasizing governance implications. Following Executive Board discussion, it was indicated that there is not support for the proposed reassignment, and this position will be communicated to President Kavalhuna. The concerns discussed by the Campus Planning and Finance Council (CPFC) will also be shared with President Kavalhuna.

President Naugle further reported that the Experience-Driven Learning (EDL) workshop was canceled due to the county-wide power outage and has been rescheduled for 22 April. Additionally, communication was received from the Michigan State University Faculty Senate president regarding participation in legislative advocacy efforts at the

state capitol, with the goal of strengthening inter-institutional collaboration and communication.

Updates from the Provost meeting included discussion of campus closure protocols, with emphasis on transition to virtual operations rather than closure. Ongoing concerns from the Western Student Association regarding grading scales were also discussed. The provost is continuing progress on implementing a two-year course scheduling model. Agreements are being developed with regional community colleges to allow automatic admission upon completion of an associate degree, contingent upon application. It was noted that the external review of Academic Affairs will include academic administrative structure and not program review.

President Naugle announced that she will undertake a one-year appointment by President Kavalhuna and Interim Provost Cheatham, focused on advancing academic program review processes and continuing EDL initiatives.

Vice President Simpson no report due to absence.

New Business

President Naugle introduced the 2 April Faculty Senate agenda. It was stated that the Office of Diversity and Inclusion is unavailable to provide a presentation. MOA-26/02 was removed as it was returned to the council in this meeting.

[MOTION] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Teichert, to approve the 2 April Faculty Senate agenda as amended. The motion carried.

Brodasky explained details of the WMU Digital Accessibility project as it relates to the Faculty Senate website.

Unfinished Business

President Naugle and Rudge presented *the Report of the Subcommittee to Review the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Agreement*. President Naugle

asked whether the report should be forwarded to the Director of Academic Labor Relations and Contract Administration as recommendations for upcoming negotiations. Discussion included compensation for the Faculty Senate President, noting that any changes are contingent upon outcomes of negotiations under the AAUP agreement. It was stated that, if approved, compensation adjustments would be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding requiring Provost signature. Discussion was held and it was agreed to forward the document as suggested.

President Naugle requested guidance regarding the 2025–26 charges for the Experience-Driven Learning Committee, as well as the development of future charges. She questioned whether the current year’s charges should be retained and carried forward into the next academic year without modification. Discussion was held.

Council and Committee Reports

Centers and Institutes Committee Report — Bulleted Minutes

Buchholz provided the Centers and Institutes Committee report via email, which included:

- The committee has not yet advanced the current centers and institutes inventory list to the next stage of review. Nelson and Hains will coordinate to move the list forward.
- Development of the Curriculog form for registering centers and institutes:
 - Consideration of differing perspectives between submitters (“users”) and reviewers (“administration”).
 - Question raised as to whether form design should prioritize user accessibility or administrative efficiency.
 - Determination to invite DeChano-Cook to a future meeting to provide guidance.
- Budget requirements for new centers and institutes proposals:
 - All proposals must include a submitted budget.
 - Discussion of creating a standardized budget template to improve consistency and streamline review.

- Ross recommended utilizing an existing ORI template, with flexibility for proposal-specific adjustments.
- Identification of potential inconsistencies in language within MOA-14/03:
 - Concern noted regarding the term “all” in relation to review authority.
 - Flowchart indicates grant centers are not included in the provost, president, Board of Trustees approval chain.
- Clarifications are sought from the Executive Board:
 - Determine whether grant centers fall under the purview of the committee.
 - Assess whether revisions to the MOA are necessary for clarity.
 - Clarify whether the Office of Research and Innovation provides final review authority for grant centers.

Hahn, replying to the email report, noted that MOA-14/03 has been superseded by MOA-24/06 and questioned the committee’s use of an inactive MOA. Grant centers are not subject to review by the Centers and Institutes Committee. This distinction is reflected in MOA-24/06, including both the flowchart and definitions section.

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

- Fogarty discussed the need to elect new AITC council officers for the upcoming academic year, with elections anticipated in September.
- Holmes presented the OIT report, including updates on institutional policies related to accessibility compliance for course materials.
 - A goal of 100% faculty compliance with accessibility standards was emphasized.
 - Uncertainty remains regarding enforcement measures for noncompliance.
 - Faculty were directed to guidance on [accessible third-party content](#)
 - Faculty are expected to complete an Ally Report for each course to assess digital accessibility compliance of all materials.
 - Additional [resource](#) were provided.
- Gallagher presented an open-source process designed to support faculty in meeting digital accessibility requirements aligned with Web Content Accessibility

Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA validation standards. The tool is expected to be available within the next few weeks.

- Carnell provided the WMUx report:
 - Ongoing [digital accessibility training](#) opportunities for faculty remain available
 - Faculty may request assistance from the Digital Accessibility Team via the [contact form](#)
- Holland provided the finalized Cybersecurity Report and recommendations, which were reviewed and discussed.

Abudayyeh provided the Campus Planning and Finance Council report via email, which included:

- Scarff reported no new updates regarding the state budget. The University remains on track to transition back to an incremental budget model.
- Nelson provided an update on enrollment metrics with current status of applications, admissions, and orientation registrations was reviewed.
- VanderVeen reported on campus infrastructure projects with the status of construction and design initiatives across campus.
- Spoelstra provided a report on funded student proposals and projects.
- Heasley addressed Sustainability Committee reporting:
 - Committee members serving on CPFC will provide updates directly to the Council.
 - Bertman will not report to CPFC, as membership is not held.
- Chair Guth noted that several Council charges will remain incomplete this academic year due to canceled meetings with relevant University administrators. The Council identified and confirmed which charges will be deferred accordingly.

Rudge provided the Undergraduate Studies Council report via email, which included:

The meeting initially lacked a quorum. Rudge recommended for the Faculty Senate to distribute meeting invitations to all council members, not solely officers.

- Al-Mawee raised concerns regarding the use of an Artificial Intelligence learning assistant in a course under development.
- Griffin-Brown presented the Academic Advising report:
 - Highlighted recent awards received by academic advisors.
 - Reviewed changes to advising structures for first-year students.
- Rudge provided an update on the Experiential Learning Subcommittee:
 - No meeting scheduled in March due to the Experience-Driven Learning retreat.
 - Service learning identified as a priority for the remainder of the term.
 - Multiple vacancies remain and require attention.

Once quorum was achieved during the meeting action items were discussed.

- MOA-25/10 minimum WMU credit requirements for majors/minors in relation to Prior Learning Assessments (PLAs) was discussed. Proposed minimums of nine credits for majors and six credits for minors. The MOA was approved.
- MOA-26/08 permitting study abroad courses to count as credit/no credit toward majors, vote was postponed to the next meeting.
- MOA-26/05 from the Transfer of Credits Committee Addresses application of military experience toward course credit. Allows consideration of upper-division credit by departments. The MOA was approved.
- MOA to change the withdrawal timeline to extend the period for withdrawal without academic penalty. The MOA was approved to advance but requires review by an additional committee prior to Executive Board consideration.
- MOA to adjust the GPA Policy to allow dropping failing courses from GPA calculation following a change of major. The MOA was approved.

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

- It was announced that the 2025–26 PCC report will be presented at the April meeting.
- The election of PCC officers for the upcoming academic year will occur at the September PCC meeting.

- A question was raised regarding the appointment of the 2026–27 Executive Board Liaison to PCC. The inquiry was directed to President-Elect Hahn and Senate staff for further clarification.
- The forthcoming PCC report will include a request for a new charge related to accessibility for the 2026–27 academic year. This item is scheduled for inclusion on the September 2026 PCC agenda.

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

- Report provided on hiring within the international services office included open positions include leadership and recruitment roles. Development of a three-year international recruitment plan is underway, with anticipated presentation to colleges and collaborative discussions in the coming month.
- Discussion regarding declining international student enrollment included decline in students from India, historically the largest population. Contributing factors include uncertainty around Optional Practical Training (OPT), perceived unwelcomeness in the United States, and travel restrictions affecting multiple countries. Example provided of admitted students unable to enroll due to travel bans. Proposed federal policy changes (e.g., limiting student stay to four years) may further impact recruitment.
- Engineering International Committee reported discussion of new study abroad courses and ongoing transportation challenges for international students.
- Fine Arts International Committee reported an update on Erasmus+ initiatives and ongoing collaborations.
- Health and Human Services International Committee reported virtual panel highlighting Fulbright research. Introduction of study abroad scholarships for the first time.
- Arts and Sciences International Committee reported discussion of sustaining international education efforts and increasing departmental engagement. Concerns raised regarding declining global rankings and implications for scholarship eligibility. Recognition of the need for institutional focus on rankings and associated capacity challenges.

- IEC discussed:
 - Consideration of how to support international initiatives (e.g., formal letters or agreements demonstrating faculty support).
 - Acknowledgment that ranking improvements are long-term and require sustained effort.
 - Plan to revisit the topic alongside the three-year recruitment strategy at a future meeting.
- Welcoming International Students group update included focus on transportation and housing challenges. Plans to collaborate with additional campus stakeholders.
- MOA-26/02: Revision of the University-wide Global Learning Outcomes revisions were introduced to clarify language as guidelines rather than mandates. MOA-26/02 was approved by the council.
- Graduate Student Association (GSA) report included emphasis on community-building initiatives informed by survey data. Key concerns include financial barriers, immigration-related uncertainty, and childcare needs. Ongoing efforts include promoting funding opportunities and family-inclusive programming.
- Upcoming Visiting Scholars and Artists program featuring international events. Asian Forum conference on aging in Southeast Asia scheduled for early May.

Announcements

Brodasky reported that the new Senate office staff member starts on 6 April.

Adjournment

President Naugle adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m. The Executive Board will meet next on 10 April 2026 at 10:30 a.m. in Ellsworth Hall, room 3201 and via Webex.

Approval

Submitted Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator

Minutes were approved 10 April 2026.