

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Minutes of 10 April 2026

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Executive Board was called to order at 10:36 a.m. on 10 April 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, C. Dennis Simpson

Members Absent: Laura Teichert

Parliamentarian Present: Decker Hains

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 Simpson, 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 27 March 2026 as presented. The motion carried.

Action Items

President Naugle introduced the [Undergraduate Student Transfer Guide](#) and the request to house the link on the Faculty Senate website. Discussion was held. President Naugle reviewed and found the Guide to be consistent with all Faculty Senate MOAs pertaining to transfer credits. The Executive Board encourages establishing a link to the Guide on the Faculty Senate's Transfer Credit Committee website from whatever established anchor website outside of the Faculty Senate structure is established. However, concerns were expressed that the Guide link provided is not within the approved WMU Content Management System, which would be required. Additionally, the Guides lack of compliance to WMU's Digital Accessibility standards will also need to be addressed.

Reports of Officers

President Naugle reported that no meetings with the administration had occurred since the last Executive Board meeting, therefore, no administrative update were provided. She noted that an upcoming shared governance meeting is scheduled for 11 April, at which Senate leadership will be in attendance.

Vice President Simpson reported an upcoming meeting with Interim Provost Cheatham and requested that protentional topics for discussion be forwarded to President Naugle.

New Business

President Naugle opened discussion of the Academic and Information Technology Council submitted cybersecurity report.

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

President Naugle explained the lack of graduate courses defined in Memorandum of Action-25/12: *Establish Cross-Listed Courses Policy*.

[MOTION] It was moved by Hahn, seconded by Rudge, to charge the Graduate Studies Council to create an MOA for cross-listed course policy encompassing graduate courses. The motion carried.

President-elect Hahn reported on correspondence received from faculty member Daniela Schroeter in Public Affairs and Administration, regarding her interest in serving as Representative-at-Large Senator and as an Executive Board Director. Hahn indicated that Schroeter has been invited to serve on the Executive Board. As a result, the Representative-at-Large seat remains vacant at this time.

Unfinished Business

President Naugle reported that she and President-elect Hahn will travel to Lansing on 23 April to participate in a meeting with representatives from the Michigan Legislature. The purpose of the meeting is to advocate for increased higher education funding in collaboration with other Michigan university senates. Discussion was held.

Council and Committee Reports

Hains provided the Centers and Institutes Committee report. He noted that the committee has not yet approved the Curriculog process and associated form for the creation of new centers and institutes. He indicated that he and Sara Nelson have reviewed the existing inventory, and that Nelson is currently working with the deans to reconcile and clarify the list. Hains further noted that, upon completion of this review, he and Nelson will finalize the list for publication on the university website. There was an inquiry whether the form to designate a center or institute had been approved. Hains confirmed that the form has been approved; however, implementation has been delayed pending clarification of the centers and institutes inventory. It was questioned if faculty whose sole affiliation to WMU is through a center or institute, how would those individuals obtain representation as Senators beyond the Representative-at-Large designation. It was clarified that no alternative representation mechanism currently exists.

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

- Chair Zondag reported on recent council activities previously presented at the February Faculty Senate meeting.
- Ex Officio Teichert noted that elections for council leadership will occur at the first Fall 2026 meeting, at which time a new chair will be elected as Zondag has completed his final eligible term.
- Dennis provided the Graduate College report that included:
 - Graduate College Poster Day is scheduled for 9 April, with judges needed.
 - The All-University Awards Ceremony will take place 13 April from 5 to 7 p.m.
 - Fellowship selection processes are ongoing, including doctoral and travel grants.
 - Graduate Student Appreciation Week is scheduled for 6 through 10 April.
- Curriculum Manager DeChano-Cook reported that the Graduate Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Memorandum of Action was approved at the Faculty Senate meeting. One program proposal is anticipated in May; in the absence of a May meeting, Chair Zondag will review the proposal on behalf of the council to allow implementation for Fall.
- Binford reported that the Graduate Student Association has completed its funding allocation cycle, supporting conferences, a certificate program, and data collection efforts. *The Hilltop Review* will relaunch in the fall, with recruitment for advisors, editors, and reviewer's forthcoming. The GSA Gala is scheduled for 17 April at 7 p.m. in the Fetzer Center.
- Cummings led discussion regarding inconsistencies in 5000-level course structures, including mixed undergraduate and graduate enrollment, credit applicability, and grading distinctions. Development of a Memorandum of Action was considered; however, further data analysis is required. Zondag and Harnar will lead this analysis, with additional outreach to graduate advisors recommended.
- Discussion identified variability and a lack of formal policy governing qualifying examinations. While the Higher Learning Commission requires rigorous evaluation, implementation remains decentralized at the departmental level.

- Discussion was held regarding inequities in graduate assistantship allocations across colleges. Variability may reflect disciplinary needs; deans were identified as responsible for further evaluation.
- Teaching and research graduate awards were determined.

Announcements

Discussion was held regarding the upcoming spring commencement.

Discussion was held regarding the Teaching Assistants Union and American Association of University Professors upcoming negotiations.

Adjournment

President Naugle adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m. The Executive Board will meet next on 24 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 24 April 2026.