EXECUTIVE BOARD

Minutes of 24 April 2026

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Executive Board was called to order at 10:34 a.m. on 24 April 2026, at Ellsworth Hall, room 3201 and via Webex, by C. Dennis Simpson, vice president.

Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Anthony DeFulio, Wanda Hadley, Janet Hahn, David Rudge, C. Dennis Simpson, Laura Teichert

Members Absent: Osama Abudayyeh, Kieran Fogarty, Amy Naugle

Parliamentarian Absent: Decker Hains

Recording Secretary in Attendance: Sue Brodasky, Administrator, Melisa Cloud, Administrative Assistant II

Quorum

A quorum was present with six 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

A correction was noted for the Centers and Institutes report.

[***MOTION***] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by DeFulio, to approve the Executive Board Minutes of 10 April 2026 as amended. The motion carried.

Action Items

Bret Wagner, chair, Undergraduate Studies Council put forward MOA-25/10: *Establish Minimum Undergraduate Credits in a Major or Minor Earned at WMU*. Came back for clarification of PLA exclusion.

[***MOTION***] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Teichert, to move MOA-25/10 to the Faculty Senate 30 April agenda, as presented. The motion carried.

MOA-26/06: Revision of Undergraduate Catalog and Addition to Graduate Catalog Extension of Drop/Withdrawal Period was put forward by Bret Wagner, chair, Undergraduate Studies Council and on behalf of the Graduate Studies Council. Discussion was held regarding hardship withdrawal inclusion and other possible withdrawals needs.

[***MOTION***] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Teichert, to move MOA-26/06 to the Faculty Senate 30 April agenda, as presented. The motion carried.

Bret Wagner, chair, Undergraduate Studies Council introduced MOA-26/07: Revision of Undergraduate GPA Revision Policy. He provided examples of experience toward retention. Concerns were expressed regarding University Studies to which Wagner noted it has been clarified in the MOA specifically.

[***MOTION***] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by DeFulio, to move MOA-26/07 to the Faculty Senate 30 April agenda, as presented. The motion carried.

MOA-26/08: Revision of Credit/No Credit Policy to Allow Major/Minor Credit was put forward by Bret Wagner, chair, Undergraduate Studies Council. Wagner provided a summary of need for recommendation to modify the policy, noting that prior MOA excluded application to major/minor credits. This MOA will resolve the prior oversight.

[***MOTION***] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Teichert, to move MOA-26/08 to the Faculty Senate 30 April agenda, as presented. The motion carried.

Bret Wagner, chair, Undergraduate Studies Council put forward MOA-26/09: Revision of Service-Learning Course Approval Procedures. Rudge provided further explanation of need for recommendation to move service-learning under the umbrella of Experiential Learning.
[***MOTION***] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by Hadley, to move MOA-26/09 to the Faculty Senate 30 April agenda, as presented. The motion carried.

Reports of Officers
Due to President Naugle's absence she did not provide a report.

Vice President Simpson reported on a meeting with Interim Provost Cheatham attended by Faculty Senate leadership:

- Inquiry raised regarding implementation of 120-credit graduation requirement for currently enrolled students. Provost will clarify but noted that catalog changes apply broadly not to individual provisions only.
- Concern presented regarding student conduct and grade appeal timelines. The current process conflicts with faculty contract periods, particularly during summer. Faculty absence at hearings result in default outcomes in favor of students. Provost will review procedural timelines and expectations for faculty participation. Discussion was held regarding accountability and cooperation in faculty conduct.

President-elect Hahn reported further on the Interim Provost meeting:

- Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) MOA implications. Mandatory student fees identified as an issue. The provost will initiate resolution individually with the College of Health and Human Services.
- Clarification was provided regarding WMU Essential Studies Faculty Director and Curriculum Manager roles are limited to implementation of policies, but not setting policy.

President-elect Hahn reported attendance at the Western Student Association end-of-year banquet which was described as positive. She acknowledged that the Faculty Senate will follow-up on grading system revisions.

Vice President-elect Rudge reported on closure policy discussion at Provost meeting, and his attendance at the experiential learning workshop. The workshop had strong participation and key issues were identified for further resolution.

New Business
Vice President Simpson opened discussion of the 30 April Faculty Senate agenda. [***MOTION***] It was moved by Hahn, seconded by Rudge, to approve the 30 April Faculty Senate agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Unfinished Business
None.

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

- Ex Officio Rudge gave a brief update, including a that the council will conduct leadership elections at the first fall meeting.
- Griffin-Brown gave an update on advising appointments.
- The Sport Psychology curriculum proposal was approved
- These MOAs were approved:
    - MOA 18-09 Service-learning revisions approved
    - MOA 26/07 – Revision of Undergraduate GPA Revision Policy
    - MOA 26/08 – Revision of Credit/No Credit Policy to Allow Major/Minor Credit
    - MOA 25/10 – Establish Minimum Credits in a Major or Minor Earned at WMU

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

- Both Student Conduct and the Ombuds indicated May as the busiest months for academic misconduct and grade appeals. Both offices indicated the problem being deadlines to hold hearings and faculty not available during summer semesters.
- The 2025-26 year-end report was approved and will be forwarded to the Senate office.

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

- Ex Officio DeFulio reported the upcoming membership changes and the election process for next academic year.
- Remzi reported the following:
    - PPP&E is over budget by about $2,500 but it will be covered by the president.
    - The travel budget retains $10,000
    - Graduate Dean reported about graduate student funding and other awards, recent events such as the graduate research poster session, and all-university graduate award ceremony.
- There was a motion supported that RCSC abdicate responsibility for continuing review of MOAs regarding WMU ORI policies that are solely designed to comply with federal regulations.
- The year-end report was approved.
- Discussion was held regarding the FRACAA process for this year, and whether any procedures should be changed going forward. The council believes that a review of procedures is in order, but that the new timeline will not allow for changes in the upcoming academic year. It was noted that the total number of applications was down by about half from the prior year. Ten applications are going to be funded. Success varied by college, specifically, 100% of The College of Engineering and Fine Arts applications were funded, with three of seven Arts and Sciences applications funded and none of the other colleges applications

were funded. Allocations across the four funds in the coming year were approved to remain the same as funding is not changing.

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

- Max gave the HIGE report:
  - February trip to Bangalore to meet with long-term institutional partner
  - Meetings conducted with WMU colleges regarding international student recruitment strategy
  - Director of Recruiting position filled; start date scheduled for May 11
  - Ongoing communication with international students regarding global events and travel restrictions; continued student support emphasized
  - Renewal process underway for international student health insurance plans
  - Upcoming June travel planned: China (renewal of GUFE agreements) and Japan (alumni event)
- Experiential Learning Committee report with focus on redefining service learning within three areas, global learning, service learning, and experience-driven learning; subcommittee work concluded for the semester
- Discussion of new international funding initiatives through HIGE; limited timeline for current fiscal year applications noted. Additional funds enabled current opportunities; future availability uncertain. Funding confirmed for projects with travel in summer 2027. No current funding designated for new partnership development; potential inquiry suggested. Application review volunteers identified.
- International Quacquarelli Symonds rankings discussed; concerns raised regarding impact on recruitment and student loan eligibility in some countries. Strengths noted in most ranking areas; academic and employer reputation identified as areas for improvement. WMU application processing timelines highlighted as a concern. Discussion of internal priorities, including application turnaround times and research engagement. Consideration of R1 status impact

for WMU, but verification needed. Recommendation for coordinated institutional approach with potential subcommittee or working group discussed.

- Election timing policy reviewed; nominations deferred to fall. Concerns raised regarding continuity, workload, and efficiency.
- Meeting modality survey results favored virtual format.
- Speaker list reviewed and prioritized.
- Charges reviewed: no changes to charges 2, 8, 9; minor revisions to charges 1 and 4; charge 7 retained; major changes to charge 3 not supported.
- MOA-26/02: Global Learning Outcomes was discussed; proposal to retain current version while continuing revisions.
- Draft year-end report presented; updates pending.
- Remaining agenda items postponed due to time constraints.

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

- Ex Officio Fogarty requested review of the AITC 2025–26 year-end report, with emphasis on proposed charges for the 2026–27 academic year.
- Holmes provided the OIT report
    - Discussed Western Michigan University accessibility policies related to course compliance requirements.
    - Noted potential one-year postponement of federal accessibility compliance deadlines.
- Gallagher reported that an open-source application to assist faculty with accessing digital accessibility course materials is expected to be available this week.
- Carnell provided the WMUx report
    - Indicated availability to meet with departments regarding digital accessibility issues.
    - Student evaluations are now accessible directly through WMU's E-Learning platform.

- Chair Cataldo reviewed and facilitated discussion of the AITC 2025–26 year-end report.

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

- Bartholomae, VP and Director of Athletics gave a presentation about the efforts involved with the Kalamazoo Event & Athletic Performance Center project.
- The end-of-year report was reviewed and discussed along with the proposed charges for next year.
- The revised Campus Planning and Finance Council role statement was approved to provide to the Executive Board.

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

- Ex Officio reported that leadership elections will be held in September.
- There was discussion regarding graduate level courses and cross-listing.
- MOA 26/06 was discussed, amended, and passed.

Announcements

Brodasky introduced newly hired Senate staff member Melisa Cloud. Her scheduled work hours are Monday and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Vice President-elect Rudge stated that he provided the Summary of the Faculty Senate Executive Board Ad Hoc Committee on the AAUP Agreement to the AAUP leadership.

Adjournment

Vice President Simpson adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m. The Executive Board will meet next on 8 May 2026 at 10:30 a.m. in Ellsworth Hall, room 3201 and via Webex.

Approval

Submitted Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator

Minutes were approved 2026.