

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Minutes of 8 May 2026

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Executive Board was called to order at 10:33 a.m. on 8 May 2026, at Ellsworth Hall, room 3201 and via Webex, by Janet Hahn, president.

Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Matthew Dumican, Lofton Durham, Wanda Hadley, Janet Hahn, David Rudge, Daniela Schroeter, David Szabla, Laura Teichert, Andre Venter

Members Absent: Decker Hains, Amy Naugle

Recording Secretary in Attendance: Sue Brodasky, Administrator

Quorum

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

Agenda

Two additional topics were added to New Business for Senate meeting dates/locations, and soliciting topics for the upcoming meeting with Interim Provost Cheatham.

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

Approval of Minutes

The approval of 24 April 2026 meeting minutes was postponed.

Member Introductions

President Hahn led introductions of the Executive Board members.

Reports of Officers

President Hahn report included:

- Served as emcee for the recent commencement ceremony in the absence of Past President Amy Naugle, followed by a brief discussion regarding commencement logistics and overall execution.
- Reviewed the Executive Board meeting schedule, noting the planned inclusion of the WMU President and Interim Provost for one meeting per semester
- Proposed an Executive Board retreat on 12 July from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.; the retreat will focus on strategic planning for upcoming Senate meetings, alignment with the University strategic plan, clarification of council and committee charges, and liaison training.
- Emphasized that her priority is to support student success while maintaining strong academic integrity standards, encouraging Executive Board members to engage in critical analysis and carefully consider potential unintended consequences of Senate actions.
- Identified a key initiative for the 2026-27 academic year involving revision of the WMU grading system, including potential adjustments such as converting A, BA, B, CB, C scale to A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, etc., with the goal of creating a more equitable and transparent GPA calculation process.

Vice President Rudge report included:

- Upcoming retirement celebration is scheduled for 20 May, hosted by the Emeriti Council under the purview of the Office of Advancement.
- Provided clarification regarding experiential learning, noting that it encompasses areas such as service learning and related applied learning experiences. Discussion included reference to experiential learning grants, with emphasis that these grants are categorized as experience-driven learning initiatives.

- Indicated that a Memorandum of Action (MOA) will be brought forward in the upcoming academic year to more clearly define and standardize terminology associated with experiential learning.

New Business

President Hahn outlined expectations for communication among the Executive Board members between meetings, noting that while email and texting have been used historically, members expressed a preference for email. It was suggested WhatsApp be used for more immediate communication.

President Hahn requested that Brodasky provide historical context regarding the bylaw amendment that eliminated May council and committee meetings, and explanation of a previously distributed but unapproved proposal that would require initial fall meetings during the first week of September with a limited agenda focused on elections, charges, and leadership training. President Hahn further noted the value of a secondary training in November after officers have had an opportunity to lead a meeting, allowing for more substantive discussion and shared perspectives. Continued discussion will be on the agenda for the next Executive Board meeting.

President Hahn asked for volunteers to serve as liaisons for each of the Faculty Senate councils and standing committees for the 2026-27 academic year. The draft list of assignments is as follows:

- Academic and Information Technology Council – Schroeter
- Campus Planning and Finance Council – Naugle
- Graduate Studies Council – Teichert
- International Education Council – Hadley
- Research Creative Scholarship Council – Durham
- Undergraduate Studies Council – Rudge
 - Experiential Learning Committee
 - Emeriti Council
- Centers and Institutes Committee – Venter

- Professional Concerns Committee – Szabla
- Unaffiliated Units Curriculum Committee – Dumican
- WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee – Hains
 - WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee

President Hahn postponed to the next meeting expectations for council and committee liaison reporting.

President Hahn reviewed the list of council and committee vacancies and encouraged Executive Board members to solicit volunteers. An email will be distributed to college deans at the start of 2026 fall semester to ask for assistance in filling the vacancies. Discussion was held.

Brodasky sought input to determine the location of the 1 October Faculty Senate meeting since the Student Center is unavailable. The Executive Board opted to establish a 1 April and 29 April Senate meeting dates rather than holding a meeting in May.

The following topics were suggested for the 12 June agenda with Interim Provost Cheatham:

- Revision of grading scale
- Experience-Drive Learning (EDL) Initiative
 - Available institutional resources and administrative support structures
 - Grant structure, funding levels, duration, and reporting expectations
 - Alignment with institutional strategic priorities and student success goals
 - Evaluation metrics for program effectiveness and long-term sustainability

Additional topics were offered for the 14 August agenda with WMU President Kavalhuna:

- Budgetary Model Change and Resource Allocation
 - Overview of proposed changes to the institutional budget model

- Distribution of resources across colleges, departments, and academic units
- Transparency and shared governance considerations in budget decision-making
- Alignment with enrollment trends, retention goals, and strategic priorities
- Equity implications in funding allocation and potential disparities across units
- Huron Consulting Update
 - Summary of findings and recommendations
 - Timeline for implementation of proposed strategies
 - Anticipated impact on academic operations, budgeting, and long-term planning
- Reinforcement of the Faculty Senate's role in policy and governance

Unfinished Business

Brodasky reported that the Council/Committee Year-end Reports are due 30 May. To date AITC and CPFC have been submitted.

Council and Committee Reports

None.

Announcements

Brodasky announced that in addition to Interim Provost Cheatham attending the 12 June Executive Board meeting there will also be a presentation of a new WMU Essential Studies website.

Adjournment

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

Approval

Submitted Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator

Minutes were approved 12 June 2026.