
Undergraduate Studies Council

Minutes of 17 March 2026

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Undergraduate Studies Council was called to order at 4 p.m. on 17 March 2026 via Webex video conferencing by Bret Wagner, chair.

Members Present: Carrie Cumming, Lisa DeChano-Cook, Jessica Birnbaum, Janet Hanh (substitute for Jessica Cataldo), Kerry Hegele, Dylan McGlothin; Diane Riggs, Bret Wagner

Members Absent: Mert Altihan, Dave Karowe, Natalio Ohanna, Irma Lopez, Priyanka Sharma, Yuanliang Sun

Advisory Members Present: Tomika Griffin-Brown, Coleen Stano

Ex Officio Present: David Rudge

Guest: Wassnaa Al-Mawee, Computer Science, Faculty Specialist I

Quorum

A quorum was established with nine members in attendance, of the eight needed to establish quorum.

Hegele and McGlothin joined the meeting at 4 p.m.

Agenda

Memorandum of Action - MOA 25/10: *Establish Minimum Undergraduate Credits in a Major or Minor Earned at WMU* was added to the agenda as Unfinished Business.

[MOTION] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by DeChano-Cook, to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by DeChano-Cook, to approve the 10 February 2026 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Teaching Programming with Artificial Intelligence

Al-Mawee presented a report on the Summer I 2025 course *Integrating AI in Introductory Programming (CS 1110)*. Students demonstrated difficulty with algorithm development, with some relying on artificial intelligence generated code without understanding or explaining their reasoning, which negatively impacted performance in advanced courses. To address this, Al-Mawee applied for a mini-grant to study the use of AI in teaching Python programming. The approach introduced a five-stage process requiring students to demonstrate understanding at each stage, promoting critical thinking over passive reliance on AI tools. A grading rubric was also developed to support teaching assistants in consistent assessment. This approach reflects the need for intentional integration of AI in education, emphasizing accountability and skill development.

Reports of Officers

Chair Wagner reported that the Transfer Credit Subcommittee has completed its report.

Additionally, he provided an update on proposed revisions to the Credit/No-Credit MOA. Study abroad students may experience GPA declines when international grades are applied, and current policy does not allow Credit/No-Credit toward major or minor requirements. The proposed revision would allow study abroad courses to use the Credit/No-Credit option while still counting toward degree requirements, addressing this inequity.

Ex Officio Rudge reported that election of USC officers will be held in the first fall 2026 meeting.

Additionally, the subcommittee of Experiential Learning will be chaired by Rudge this spring, but as of fall, new officers will be elected. Rudge will submit a report to Chair Wagner to be included in the USC year-end report.

Reports of University Representatives

Curriculum Manager DeChano-Cook reported a need to add a statement to MOA- 25/10 “credits earned through PLA will not be part of the minimum credit hours.” The desired result would equate to at least nine credit hours toward a major, and six credit hours toward a minor, are required to be taken at WMU.

Griffin-Brown provided the Academic Advising report, which included:

- Awards Event was held
- Regional meeting was held
- Follow-up of a program review since the last one was in 2019
- Changes will be made to the Academic Success Plan by removing well-being requirement which is migrating elsewhere

Reports of Standing Committees

Rudge provided the Experiential Learning Committee report included difficulty in identifying a committee chair. As a result, the Faculty Senate Executive Board appointed Rudge as Interim Chair until fall 2026. In Fall we will set up an election. The committee members are scheduled to attend the retreat on Thursday, 19 March. At its April meeting the committee will address Service-Learning, specifically the processes in which courses re-apply each year for designation approval.

Unfinished Business

Further discussion and continued review of the MOA has been tabled until the next meeting.

MOA 25/10: Regarding PLA

[MOTION] It was moved by DeChano-Cook, seconded by Rudge, to amend MOA-25/10 with the PLA language defined. The motion carried unanimously.

DeChano-Cook introduced MOA-26/05: *Establish Equivalency Level Acceptance of American Council of Education (ACE) Military Credit Policy.*

[MOTION] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by DeChano-Cook, to approve MOA-26/05 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

DeChano-Cook introduced MOA-26/06: *Revision of the Undergraduate Catalog and Addition to the Graduate Catalog Extension of the Drop/Withdrawal Period.*

[MOTION] It was moved by Rudge, seconded by DeChano-Cook, to approve MOA-26/06 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Wagner introduced MOA-26/07: *Revision of Undergraduate GPA Revision Policy.* Attempted credit hours are credits only taken at WMU while total credit hours could include AP, dual-enrollment, etc.

[MOTION] It was moved by Wagner, seconded by DeChano-Cook, to approve MOA-26/07 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Wagner led discussion regarding USC Charge 5: Explore opportunities, threats, and challenges with respect to Artificial Intelligence as it relates to USC under Teaching Programming with Artificial Intelligence.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by DeChano-Cook, seconded by Cumming, to adjourn the meeting at 4:41 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Undergraduate Studies Council will meet next on 14 March via Webex at 3 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Dylan McGlothlin, Secretary, with the assistance of Diane Riggs.

Minutes were approved 20 April 2026