EXECUTIVE BOARD

Minutes of 24 July 2026

Call to Order

The meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Executive Board was called to order at 10:35 a.m. on 24 July 2026, at Ellsworth Hall, room 3201 and via Webex, by Janet Hahn, president.

Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Lofton Durham, Janet Hahn, Decker Hains, Amy Naugle, Daniela Schroeter, David Szabla, Andre Venter

Members Absent: Matthew Dumican, Wanda Hadley, David Rudge, Laura Teichert

Guests: Lisa DeChano-Cook, Curriculum Manager

Recording Secretary in Attendance: Sue Brodasky, Administrator

Quorum

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

Agenda

President Hahn added a New Business item for discussion of the newly announced Administrative Redesign Project.

[***MOTION***] It was moved by Hains, seconded by Naugle, to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Corrections were noted.

[***MOTION***] It was moved by Naugle, seconded by Schroeter, to approve the 10 July, 2026 meeting minutes as amended. The motion carried.

Action Items

DeChano-Cook introduced MOA-26/10, *Revision of the Graduate Catalog Accelerated Graduate Degree Program*. She explained that the proposal addresses a practice in which some students delay degree conferral to remain classified as undergraduates while enrolling in graduate-level courses at the undergraduate tuition rate. The proposed revision changes the catalog language to reference completion of undergraduate degree requirements, rather than degree conferral, for financial aid purposes, thereby closing the identified loophole. Questions were raised regarding why the proposal was being considered during the summer and whether the Graduate Studies Council had reviewed the revision. DeChano-Cook explained that the Registrar recommended implementing the change as quickly as possible to eliminate the loophole. President Hahn asked when the revision would take effect. Brodasky responded that, following approval, the MOA would become effective upon President Kavalhuna's signature after the standard 30-day review period, unless that period is waived. Discussion was held.

[***MOTION***] It was moved by Naugle, seconded by Hains, to approve MOA-26/10. The motion carried.

[***MOTION***] It was moved by Hains, seconded by Naugle, to waive the 30-day hold period for MOA-26/10. The motion carried.

Naugle provided background regarding the Campus Planning and Finance Council's proposal to revise its role statement.

[***MOTION***] It was moved by Naugle, seconded by Szabla, to approve the CPFC role statement revision.

Reports of Officers

President Hahn reported on meetings with President Kavalhuna and Interim Provost Cheatham. She noted that the curriculum planning process for the coming academic year will include Faculty Senate representation. President Kavalhuna also provided an update on the administration redesign project. President Hahn shared the Faculty

Senate's commencement preferences with President Kavalhuna, including support for retaining the traditional commencement regalia and opposition to establishing a separate graduate commencement ceremony. She also discussed the spring Faculty Senate evaluations of both President Kavalhuna and Interim Provost Cheatham. It was confirmed that the evaluation of the President will be coordinated with the Board of Trustees. Discussion also included the Experience-Driven Learning (EDL) initiative. Questions were raised regarding how the initiative affects faculty, what constitutes EDL, and other related considerations. Discussion was held.

Due to Vice President Rudge’s absence no report was provided.

Immediate Past President Naugle reported on the progress of the Experience-Driven Learning (EDL) workgroup, on which she and Vice President Rudge serve. Naugle requested an opportunity for the EDL committee to meet with the Executive Board at its 28 August meeting to provide an update on its work. Naugle explained that the committee plans to discuss its progress and its framework for working with the Faculty Senate.

President Hahn reported on a meeting with representatives from the Office of Faculty Development regarding the syllabus template and syllabus statement of requirement distributed by the Faculty Senate. During the meeting, the Office of Faculty Development requested representation on both the Undergraduate Studies Council and the Graduate Studies Council. President Hahn advised that representatives are welcome to attend council meetings as guests. Discussion also included the possibility of developing a Faculty Senate charge to further consider the request and the Office's role in supporting the councils. Discussion was held.

New Business

President Hahn introduced the topic of reduced-credit bachelor’s degrees for discussion. During the recent Executive Board retreat, Interim Provost Cheatham asked the Executive Board to consider this new option. The Higher Learning Commission

(HLC) has provided guidance on how to explain and justify any variation from the minimum of 120 credits for a bachelor's degree. It was shared that neighboring states are moving in this direction and WMU stands to lose market share if it does not consider such adjustments for some programs. It was suggested that a charge of an environmental scan of this idea be added to newly proposed Academic Innovation and Strategic Foresight council. Discussion was held.

Szabla provided additional information regarding the proposal to establish a new Academic Innovation and Strategic Foresight Council. Discussion focused on the process for creating a new Faculty Senate council. Brodasky outlined the established practice of first creating an ad hoc committee to evaluate the need for a council. It was noted that the ad hoc committee should be charged with assessing the need for the proposed council, developing recommended charges, and submitting a report with its findings and recommendations for Executive Board consideration. The Executive Board proposed developing a formal document establishing the ad hoc committee, including its membership, charges, reporting expectations, and sunset date. Naugle, Szabla, and President Hahn volunteered to draft the proposed ad hoc committee charges and recommend committee membership for Executive Board review. Discussion was held.

President Hahn opened discussion of the administration redesign initiative and emphasized the importance of meaningful faculty participation throughout the process. It was suggested that faculty should have an opportunity to provide input regarding classroom technology and instructional needs as decisions affecting academic spaces are considered. Discussion was held regarding the planned consolidation of information technology units. Members questioned whether the advantages and challenges currently associated with college-based IT support would continue under a more centralized organizational structure. Naugle suggested that faculty should communicate these concerns directly to the Vice President assigned to lead the redesign effort. Schroeter added that the Academic and Information Technology Council (AITC) should be formally included in the redesign process. It was suggested that a charge directing the Academic and Information Technology Council to participate in the academic redesign of the Office of Information Technology be added. It was also considered requesting that administrative redesign working groups provide regular updates at council meetings. Staff was directed to extend invitations to Vice President Proudfoot, Vice President Van Der Kley, and Chief Information Officers Holmes to attend an upcoming Executive Board meeting to provide updates and discuss issues within their respective divisions. Discussion was held.

Unfinished Business

Review of the proposed 2026-27 council and committee charges was postponed.

Discussion was held regarding topics for discussion with WMU President Kavalhuna at the 14 August Executive Board meeting.

University Committee Reports

The report of the Digital Accessibility Committee was postponed.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

President Hahn adjourned the meeting at 12 p.m. The Executive Board will meet next on 14 August 2026 at 10:30 a.m. at Ellsworth Hall, room 3201 and via Webex with guest WMU President Russ Kavalhuna.

Approval

Submitted Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator

Minutes were approved 14 August 2026.