
WMU ESSENTIAL STUDIES COURSE REVIEW AND APPROVAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of 20 April 2026

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee was called to order at 10 a.m. on 20 April 2026, via Webex by Katherine Suender, chair.

Members Present: Lisa DeChano-Cook, Dana Hammond, Kwangmin Lee, Matilda McLean, Marie Moreno, Agatha Slupek, Katherine Suender, Nathan Tabor

Members Absent: Jonathan Bush, Anne Marie Guidy-Oulai, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Kathryn Wagner **Advisory Members Present:** Destiny Wallace

Advisory Members Absent: Jacquelyn Bizzell, Lucy Kent-Bracken, Melinda Lockett, Colleen Stano, Sharon VanDyken

Ex Officio Present: Elissa Allen, Janet Hahn

Quorum

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

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Slupek, seconded by Lee, to accept the agenda as provided. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by McLean, seconded by Moreno, to accept the 16 March 2026 minutes as provided. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Suender did not provide a report.

Ex Officio Hahn reported that voting for committee leadership positions has been moved to the fall. It was also noted that the Western Michigan University Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee Year-end Report must be submitted by the end of May.

Reports of University Representatives

Allen explained that she will serve as Interim Faculty Director of Western Michigan University Essential Studies until Bush returns to campus. Questions regarding the operation of WMU Essential Studies should be directed to her.

DeChano-Cook did not provide a report.

Unfinished Business

Chair Suender is compiling the Year-end Report

Chair Suender noted that the committee has reviewed, edited, and revised three documents, including WMU Essential Studies Proposal Review Guide, WMU Essential Studies Assessment Plan Template, and the WMU Essential Studies Proposal Tips.

New Business

Chair Suender led review of the curriculum proposals

[MOTION] It was moved by McClean, seconded by Moreno, to approve the following list of proposals. The motion carried.

- BCM2060 – Generative AI Writing Strategies
- CS1060 – Computational Thinking
- ENGL2060 – AI Writing
- GEOG3030 – Geographic Inquiry
- SPY3505 – Behavioral Community Psychology

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Chair Suender adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Approval

Submitted by Kwangmin Lee, Secretary

Minutes were approved 28 September 2026.