WMU ESSENTIAL STUDIES EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of 8 September 2026

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee was called to order at 1 p.m. on 8 September, via Webex by Janet Hahn, Faculty Senate President

Members Present: Beth Ernst, Dana Hammond, Anthony Helms, Jessica Parker, Brian Tripp, Luchara Wallace
Members Absent: Elizabeth Isidro, Matilda McLean
Advisory Members Present: Elissa Allen, Carrie Cumming, Lisa DeChano-Cook
Ex Officio: Decker Hains
Guest(s): Janet Hahn, Faculty Senate President, Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator

Quorum

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

Agenda

[***MOTION***] It was moved by Tripp, seconded by Hammond, to accept the agenda as provided. The motion carried.

Minutes

[***MOTION***] It was moved by Tripp, seconded by Hammond, to approve the 14 April 2026 minutes as provided. With one abstention, the motion carried.

Leadership Training

President Hahn led the training with support of Hains and Brodasky.
Wallace joined the meeting at 1:17 p.m.

Questions were raised regarding voting rights and membership identification.
Discussion was held.

Hammond left the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

Officer Elections

[***MOTION***] It was moved by Helms, seconded by Ernst, to elect Elissa Allen as chair.
The motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the additional burden on the committee chair during the WMU Essential Studies fourth year review and cyclical review processes.

Wallace nominated Jessica Parker as vice chair, to which Parker accepted the nomination. Tripp nominated Elizabeth Isidro as vice chair. Due to Isidro's absence the acceptance of the nomination cannot be confirmed until the next meeting Isidro is in attendance. The election of vice chair was postponed to the next meeting.

Parker self-nominated as secretary, pending the outcome of the vice chair election. The election of secretary was postponed to the next meeting.

Committee 2026-27 Charges

President Hahn charged the committee and gave an overview of the committee's actions should they have recommended changes.

Announcements

Wallace expressed gratitude to Allen and DeChano-Cook for the completion of 600+ proposals.

Adjournment

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 1:48 p.m. The next WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee meeting will be held 22 September at 1 p.m. via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Sue Brodasky, attending recording secretary

Minutes were approved on 13 October 2026.