
CENTERS AND INSTITUTES COMMITTEE**Minutes of 16 September 2026****Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Centers and Institutes Committee was called to order at 10:02 a.m. on 4 March 2026, via Webex by D. Eric Archer, chair.

Members in Attendance: Dustin Altschul, D. Eric Archer, Ron Cisler, Sara Nelson, Matthew Ross, Jana Schulman, Lee Wells

Ex Officio: Andre Venter

Quorum

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

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Venter, seconded by Ross, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Minutes

A correction was noted to correct the spelling a member's name.

[MOTION] It was moved by Schulman, seconded by Cisler, accept the minutes of 2 September 2026 as amended. The motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Chair Archer informed the committee that he had difficulty locating the current Curriculum Reporting Form for Centers and Institutes. He will work to ensure the committee has access to the form for review.

Ex Officio Venter did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

Nelson provided the Provost's Office report and informed the committee that approximately half of the deans have reviewed the submitted responses regarding the list of active centers/institutes. Nelson is also working with Executive Board Director Decker Hains to identify center/institutes on the list that do not fall under the purview of this committee.

New Business

-Chair Archer asked the committee to review its 2026–27 charges. The committee discussed the need for more specific definitions of centers and institutes. Ross suggested reviewing definitions used by other institutions and will provide examples to the committee. The committee also expressed concern that the charges do not clearly specify the committee's role in reviewing submitted Center/Institute Reports.

[MOTION] It was moved by Cisler, seconded by Schulman, to accept the CIC 2026-27 Charges as provided. The motion carried.

Chair Archer asked the committee whether it would be beneficial to invite specific guests to future meetings. The committee suggested meeting with Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Chris Cheatham and Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation Remzi Seker. These discussions would allow the committee to better understand what the administration is looking to glean from the reports. Lisa DeChano-Cook will be invited to the next meeting to discuss Modern Campus Curriculum software further.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Archer at 11:05 a.m. The Centers and Institutes Committee will next meet on 7 October 2026 at 10 a.m. via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Lee Wells, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 7 October 2026