
UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL**Minutes of 22 September 2026****Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Undergraduate Studies Council was called to order at 3:03 p.m. on 22 September, via Webex by Jessica Cataldo, chair.

Members Present: Jessica Cataldo, Carrie Cumming, Fiona Dougherty, Kerry Hegele, Luke Kritzman, Irma Lopez, Dylan McGlothlin, Natalio Ohanna, Priyanka Sharma, Bret Wagner, Rebecca West

Members Absent: Mert Atilhan, Jessica Birnbaum, Lisa DeChano-Cook

Advisory Members Present: Colleen Stano

Advisory Members Absent: Tomika Griffin-Brown

Ex Officio: David Rudge

Quorum

A quorum was present with 10 members in attendance, of the eight needed to establish a quorum.

Agenda

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Wagner, seconded by Rudge, to approve the 8 September 2026 minutes as distributed. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Items

[MOTION] It was moved by Wagner, seconded by West, to accept the Curriculum Proposal for Sport Psychology as provided. With one abstention, the motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Chair Cataldo did not provide a report.

Ex Officio Rudge reported concerns about avoiding duplication of efforts related to experiential learning in the curriculum. Ex Officio Rudge will continue discussions with Amy Naugle, Faculty Senate Immediate Past President on this matter and report back to the committee.

Reports of University Representatives

Due to DeChano-Cook's absence, there was no Curriculum Manager report.

Director of Academic Advising Stano reported that the 4th Annual WMU Academic Advising and Success Conference will be held on 4 December 2026 from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Haworth College of Business. The call for proposals was submitted with the minutes.

Western Student Association (WSA) representative Kritzman reported that the WSA is interested in the grading scale revision and is working with the Graduate Student Association to research the grading scales of comparable universities. Kritzman will share their findings with the council. Kritzman also reported that the WSA is interested in working with the council on implementing mental health days for students. He noted that this proposal was presented to a previous WSA president but was not completed. Kritzman is also investigating how mental health days could be incorporated into the university strategic plan.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Wagner will serve as the USC representative to the Transfer of Credit Committee.

Ex Officio Rudge will serve as the USC representative to the Experiential Learning Committee.

[MOTION] It was moved by Cataldo, seconded by Wagner, to approve the charges for the Transfer of Credit Committee and Experiential Learning Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

There was a discussion regarding how the Undergraduate Studies Council will approach its 2026–27 charges during the coming year.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Ohanna, seconded by Rudge, to adjourn the meeting at 3:39 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Undergraduate Studies Council will meet next on 13 October 2026 via Webex at 3 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Dylan McGlothlin, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 13 October 2026