
EXECUTIVE BOARD**Minutes of 25 September 2026****Call to Order**

The meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Executive Board was called to order at 10:41 a.m. on 25 September 2026, at Ellsworth Hall, room 3201, by Janet Hahn, president.

Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Matthew Dumican, Lofton Durham, Janet Hahn, Decker Hains, Amy Naugle, David Rudge, Daniela Schroeter, Laura Teichert, Andre Venter

Members Absent: Wanda Hadley, David Szabla

Recording Secretary in Attendance: Sue Brodasky, Administrator

Quorum

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

Agenda

Review of changes to Campus Planning and Finance Council and Centers and Institutes Committee 2026-27 charges was added to Unfinished Business.

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

Approval of Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Hains, seconded by Rudge, to approve the 11 September, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Reports of Officers

President Hahn reported

- The University will discontinue summer commencement and instead hold two commencement days at the end of the spring semester. Students completing their degrees during summer I will be permitted to participate in spring commencement, while summer II graduates may participate in a subsequent commencement ceremony.
- President Hahn has discussed the University's honorary degree process with President Kavalhuna. Noting that the recently awarded honorary degree did not require Faculty Senate involvement under the applicable policy. The president is aware that other types of honorary degrees require Faculty Senate participation in accordance with established University policy and procedures.
- President Hahn reported attending an Administrative Redesign listening session. Discussion was held regarding changes to administrative reporting structures and the potential impact of those changes on University operations.

Vice President Rudge did not provide a report.

New Business

President Hahn presented the Faculty Senate 1 October 2026 Agenda for review and approval. It was suggested that Chief Information Officer Andrew Holmes be invited to speak at the 1 October Faculty Senate meeting regarding the OIT Redesign initiative as it relates to faculty.

[MOTION] It was moved by Hains, seconded by Naugle, to approve the 1 October, 2026 Faculty Senate agenda as amended. The motion carried.

President Hahn reported meeting with Western Student Association President Luke Kritzman regarding a proposal for a student well-being day that would allow students to miss class without academic consequences. Discussion was held regarding existing attendance policies, syllabus requirements, faculty responsibilities, and whether the proposal falls within the Faculty Senate's purview. It was noted that existing University policy may already address aspects of the proposal. The Executive Board requested

additional information regarding the specific issue the proposal is intended to address and how a well-being day would be implemented. Hahn will confer with Kritzman to obtain additional clarification.

President Hahn reviewed the Executive Board guest schedule. Discussion was held regarding the Athletic Director search and interviews. Naugle provided an update regarding the Experience-Driven Learning Workgroup. The steering committee is expected to begin meeting within the next several weeks. Additional information regarding venture grants and outcomes from the spring meeting is forthcoming. Venture grants will prioritize undergraduate and community engagement, with the Office of Research and Innovation and Government Relations being consulted. It was suggested that the workgroup be invited to an Executive Board meeting in November or December. The Senior Vice President for Budget and Finance will be considered for an Executive Board meeting during the spring semester. The Campus Planning and Finance Council is scheduled to meet with the CFO at its October meeting. Scheduling with the Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics remains pending, with a meeting anticipated for late fall or early spring. An invitation to the Vice President for Advancement is on hold pending completion of the search process.

Unfinished Business

President Hahn led a review of council and committee charges based on questions and concerns raised by the councils.

- Discussion was held regarding Undergraduate Studies Council (USC) charges involving collaboration with other councils and the need to identify which council has primary responsibility.
- It was agreed that USC Charge #4 should be removed.
- Discussion was held regarding Experiential Learning Committee (ELC) charges and the scope of the committee's responsibilities. Naugle will work with the USC chair to revise the charges. Discussion included whether the committee's scope should be more specifically focused on service learning. Naugle and Rudge will coordinate regarding proposed revisions.

- The Campus Planning and Finance Council requested clarification of Charges #6 and #8. Regarding Charge #6, questions were raised about the intended scope and expected outcome, and it was agreed that the charge should be eliminated.
- Regarding Charge #8 concerning research equipment, it was determined that the Research and Creative Scholarship Council (RCSC) should take the lead in collaboration with CPFC. The requirement to conclude the charge with a report or Memorandum of Action will be removed.

[MOTION] It was moved by Naugle, seconded by Teichert, to approve stated modifications to the Campus Planning and Finance 2026-27 Charge. The motion carried.

- Discussion was held regarding Centers and Institutes Committee reporting requirements and concerns about the number of reports that could be generated and responsibility for compiling the information. It was confirmed that the applicable Memorandum of Action assigns the Centers and Institutes Committee responsibility for compiling the data available through WMU's electronic curriculum software *Modern Campus Curriculum*.

University Committee Reports

Due to Hadley's absence, there was not a Digital Accessibility Committee report.

Council and Committee Reports

Schroeter provided the Academic and Information Technology Council report via email, which included:

- President Hahn facilitated the meeting, which focused primarily on organizational matters. Parliamentary procedures were reviewed by Hains and committee training and procedures were presented by Brodasky.
- Election of officers
 - Chair: Cara Masselink
 - Vice Chair: Katie Holland
 - Secretary: Alissa Baker
- President Hahn presented the council charges and brief discussion was held.

Dumican provided the Unaffiliated Units Curriculum Committee report via email, which included:

- President Hahn facilitated the meeting, which focused primarily on organizational matters. Parliamentary procedures were reviewed by Hains and committee training and procedures were presented by Brodasky.
- Election of officers
 - Chair: Jennifer Bott
 - Vice Chair: Eric Archer
 - Secretary: Elyse Connors
- President Hahn presented the committee charges.

The Centers and Institutes Committee report was not provided.

Szabla provided the Professional Concerns Committee report via email, which included:

- The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities reported a busy summer as it concluded cases from Summer II.
- The University Ombuds reported a 10% increase in traffic and is examining the reasons for the increase. Ombudsman reviewed the MOA-26/06: *Revision of the Undergraduate Catalog Extension of the Drop/Withdrawal Period*. This year's deadline is 16 November.
- The committee reviewed its charges. Chair Kahwaji will examine each charge in depth and prepare actions for the next meeting.

Durham provided the Research and Creative Scholarships Council report via email, which included:

- Election of officers was completed:
 - Vice Chair: Bilinda Straight
- Senior Vice President Seker updated the council regarding how the new WMU AAUP Agreement impacts the council's work, by eliminating RCSC's role in

determining the budgets for the FRACASF programs. The total budget for all programs this year is \$440,000, broken down as follows:

- FRACAA – \$100,000
- FRTF – \$300,000
- PPP&E – \$20,000
- SFSA – \$20,000
- He also reported that second trips will be paid out until the travel fund amount drops to \$100,000. Then second trips will not be paid in order to ensure maximum access for faculty to support for at least one trip.
- The charges were accepted by the council, and Chair Bocko began the process of organizing work to accomplish them.

Hadley provided the International Education Council report via email, which included:

- Max reported that the international office is continuing to work on the enrollment plan to recruit students. She also reported that the University is now offering an improved health/medical plan for students at a more economical price. She said the office is continuing to work on the housing concerns.
- Subcommittees continue to work on various tasks.
- The council reviewed the 2026-27 charges.

Hains provided the WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee report, which included:

- Election of officers was completed:
 - Vice Chair: Brian Tripp
 - Secretary: remains vacant
- WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee charges were approved.
- Discussion was held regarding revision of the Student Learning Outcomes and Rubrics.

Rudge provided the Undergraduate Studies Council report via email, which included:

- The curriculum proposal for Sport Psychology minor was approved.
- Brett Wagner was selected to serve as USC liaison to the Transfer Credit Committee.
- Dave Rudge was selected to serve as USC liaison to the Experiential Learning Committee.
- Tentative charges for TCC and ELC were reviewed. There was an addition to TCC charges that includes creation and maintenance of a document for the aid of advisors and faculty.
- The USC 2026-27 Charges were discussed. It was noted that there is an inherent ambiguity associated with charges that begin “In collaboration with...” namely which of the council, or committees mentioned should take the lead on the charge outcomes. Rudge will seek clarification from the Executive Board. The USC chair will confer with the other councils/committees named to determine leads for each charge in question.

Naugle provided the Campus Planning and Finance Council report via email, which included:

- Several updates were provided on the administrative redesign, campus planning and construction, student activities, and sustainability initiatives.
- Phase 1 of the Administrative Redesign has been completed. The employee survey received an exceptionally high response rate, with 224 of 226 employees responding. Huron is expected to provide a preliminary report in October with recommendations for the redesign of business and finance operations, with implementation anticipated to begin 1 January.
- The incoming Senior Vice President for Business and Finance is expected to explore new budget models.
- Updates were provided on current construction projects and anticipated completion dates.
- Design updates for the College of Health and Human Services and Unified Clinics were presented.

- Planning work for Lot 13 (adjacent to the Student Recreation Center, and the Oliver Street intersection) was discussed.
- Additional update of the implementation of space utilization software.
- Western Student Association reported on attendance at a leadership conference and the start of their activities for the academic year. An upcoming mental health fair was also highlighted.
- Discussion was held regarding opportunities to advance sustainability across campus, including educational opportunities, alignment with the well-being goals of the strategic plan, and student sustainability grants to support student-driven projects. A fall sustainability celebration is scheduled for Friday at 11 a.m.
- The Council reviewed its charges and identified two items requiring clarification from the Faculty Senate Executive Board:
 - Charge #6: Clarification of the specific expectations and work being requested.
 - Charge #8: Clarification of the charge and its intended scope.
- The Council also discussed meeting modality, with strong support expressed for retaining the virtual meeting format but will likely meet in person for the 20 October meeting when inviting the new Senior Vice President for Business and Finance.
- The five-year capital outlay plan is expected to be published following the next Board of Trustees meeting.

Teichert provided the Graduate Studies Council report via email, which included:

- Ex Officio shared updates from Vice President Seker's comments on R1 status.
- Dean Byrd-Jacobs provided updates about welcome events and orientations that were hosted throughout September for graduate students and reminders to travel and research grant applications. A flyer was distributed advertising the Graduate Writing Community for all Graduate students.
- Attanayake shared a working report from Engineering on AI. Shared how the college is using AI in classes as questions began coming from families about

future facing skills. Plan to create something that can be easily explained across content areas/specialties.

- Discussion was held regarding GSC 2026-27 Charges and decisions were made about prioritization.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

President Hahn adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m. The Executive Board will meet next on 9 October 2026 at 10:30 a.m. at Ellsworth Hall, room 3201 and via Webex.

Approval

Submitted Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator

Minutes were approved 9 October 2026.