WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee
Minutes of 19 October 2026

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee, WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee, was called to order at 10 a.m. on 19 October 2026, via Webex by Katherine Suender, chair.

Members Present: Elissa Allen, Samantah Collet, Lisa DeChano-Cook, Dana Hammond, Kwangmin Lee, Vincent Lyon-Callo, Matilda McLean, Marie Moreno, Katherine Suender, Nathan Tabor, Kathryn Wagner
Advisory Members Present: Melinda Lockett, Lucy Parrott, Colleen Stano, Sharon VanDyken, Destiny Wallace
Advisory Members Absent: Jacquelyn Bizzell

Quorum

A quorum was present with 11 voting members in attendance, of the six needed to establish a quorum.

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Tabor, seconded by DeChano-Cook, to accept the 19 October 2026 agenda as provided. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by DeChano-Cook, seconded by Tabor, to accept the 28 September 2026 minutes as distributed. With one abstention, the motion carried.

Election of Officers

Vice chair elections were held. Marie Moreno was nominated to serve as vice chair for the fall 2026 semester, and Nathan Tabor was nominated to serve as the vice chair for the spring 2027 semester.

[MOTION] It was moved by Lee, seconded by Suender, to elect Moreno and Tabor as co-vice chairs of the 2026-27 WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee.

Reports of Officers

Chair Suender offered appreciation to the WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee's 15 appointed faculty and advisory representatives.

Reports of University Representatives

Allen did not provide a WMU Essential Studies Faculty Director report.

DeChano-Cook did not provide a Curriculum Manager report.

Unfinished Business

[MOTION] It was moved by Suender, seconded by Tabor, to approve GEOG – 2050 – Human Geography. The motion carried.

New Business

The following curriculum proposals were approved:

- ANTH – 2100 – Introduction to Archaeology
- GEOS – 3220 – Ocean Systems
- NUR – 2200 – Foundations of Nursing Practice
- NUR – 2300 – Nursing for Health & Wellness
- NUR – 3220 – Health Care Ethics
- ANTH – 4040 – Early Technologies
- JPNS – 2000 – Intermediate Japanese I
- JPNS – 2010 – Intermediate Japanese II
- ECON – 3090 – The Economics of Gender and Race

- ARAB – 2000 – Intermediate Arabic I
- SOC – 2600 – Introduction to Criminal Justice Studies
- SOC – 3620 – Criminology
- ENGR – 3700 – Engineering Global Practices in Western Countries
- LAT – 2000 – An Introduction to the Study of Latin Literature
- PSCI – 3950 – Data in Politics and Policy

[MOTION] It was moved by Suender, seconded by Tabor, to approve the curriculum proposals. The motion carried

The following Curriculum proposals were postponed:

- GEOS – 1600 – Blue Planet: How Water Shapes Our World
- FYE – 2100 – First-Year Experience
- LAT – 2010 – Latin Composition

[MOTION] It was moved by Suender, seconded by Tabor, to postpone the curriculum proposals to the next meeting. The motion carried

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Chair Suender adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m. The WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee will meet on 2 November 2026 at 10 a.m. via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Kwangmin Lee, Secretary
Minutes approved on 2 November 2026