WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee
Minutes of 9 November 2026

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee was called to order at 10 a.m. on 9 November 2026, via Webex by Katherine Suender, Chair.

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

Quorum

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

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Tabor, seconded by Moreno, to accept the 9 November 2026 agenda as provided. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Tabor, seconded by Hammond, to approve the 2 November 2026 minutes as distributed. With one abstention, the motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Chair Suender did not provide a report.

Ex officio Hammond did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

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

DeChano-Cook did not provide a Curriculum Manager report.

Unfinished Business

The following curriculum proposals were approved:

- BCM - 2080 - Communicating Data in Business
- FYE - 2100 - First-Year Experience
- GEOS - 1600 - Blue Planet: How Water Shapes Our World

[MOTION] It was moved by Tabor, seconded by Hammond, to approve the curriculum proposals as listed above. The motion carried

New Business

The following curriculum proposals were approved:

- CS - 1106 - Computational Thinking
- GIST - 3100 - Global Studies in the Field
- GRN - 1000 - Introduction to Aging Studies
- PH - 2340 - Introduction to Biostatistics in Public Health

[MOTION] It was moved by Tabor, seconded by Hammond, to approve the curriculum proposals as listed above. The motion carried

The following curriculum proposals were approved:

- ENVS - 4230 - Climate Justice
- GIST - 2100 - Travel, Culture, and Study Abroad
- PH - 2320 - Global and Environmental Health Issues

[MOTION] It was moved by Moreno, seconded by Tabor, to approve the curriculum proposals as listed above. The motion carried

[MOTION] It was moved by Tabor, seconded by Hammond, to postpone curriculum proposal GRN-2000-Health and Aging to the next meeting. The motion carried.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Chair Suender adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m. The WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee will meet on 16 November 2026 via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Kwangmin Lee, Secretary

Minutes approved on 16 November 2026.