

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee
Minutes of 15 February 2021**

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 10:03 a.m. on 15 February 2021 by Chair Colleen Stano.

Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Kirsty Eisenhart, Beth Ernst, Gina Kling, Michele McGrady, Pablo Pastrana, Carol Weideman, Lisa Whittaker (substitute for Matilda McLean)

Members Absent: Kathryn Thomsen, Kathryn Wagner, Kevin Wanner,

Advisory Members Present: Diane Blouin, James Cousins, Nick Gauthier, Melinda Lockett, Shannon Meyers, Collen Stano, Sharon VanDyken, Nicolas Witschi

Advisory Members Absent: Anthony Helms, Tammy Smith

Ex Officio in Attendance: Decker Hains

Quorum

A quorum was present

Agenda

It was moved by Ernst, seconded by Pastrana, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

Attendance was corrected. It was moved by Ernst, seconded by Pastrana, to approve the 20 January minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Stano did not provide a report.

Ex Officio Hains did not provide a report.

Reports of the Committee's Standing Committees

None.

Reports of University Representatives

WMU Essential Studies Interim Director Cousins reported that he is assisting in the collection of data for the Higher Learning Commission.

Unfinished Business

Chair Stano lead a discussion of the WMU Essential Studies course review process. Topics included:

- Overview of current assessment
- Syllabus and specific examples of Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) assignments
- Identifying change made since the initial approval, such as
 - additional sections
 - was the course popular
 - is there a coordinator
 - was the assessment too much
- Potential additions
 - after action review
 - what was the biggest challenge
 - what was the greatest achievement
- Keep it simple so it is user friendly, and have an option for elaboration

- Was there support from OIT and/or WMUx, what was the quality of the support

Discussion was held regarding what has been learned so far. The review process feedback needs to be clearer with specific recommendations. Offer additional assistance to the proposal initiator and provide details on specific concerns. There is a need for guidance/discussion about programs that have profession accreditation and the request for special exemptions. Limit review of courses as to how it meets the WMU Essential Studies requirements, but not the course itself. This is a larger level of review, and it is up to the faculty to make the request for that level of review earlier in the process, such as at the department, college, and dean levels. There has been success with individual consultation with committee members. It may be worthwhile to offer the Navigating WMU Essential Studies series a few times per semester.

New Business

Proposal WES_ENVS4150_L2020_ENVS-102 was postponed. Witschi will provide the email documentation regarding the catalog language. The course may already have been approved. Discussion was held regarding WMU Essential Studies courses pre-requisites and the possible limits on students getting a broad-based education by taking courses outside of the discipline.

It was moved by Hains, seconded by Weideman, to approve proposal WES_GEOG1000_L2020_GEOG-18 change of name only with notation to the Registrar that it also meets the Sustainability designation. The motion carried unanimously.

It was stated that proposal WES_MGMT3010_B2020_MGMT-92 incorrectly indicated as a WMU Essential Studies course. Witschi will ensure it is routed properly.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

It was moved by Hains, seconded by Eisenhart, to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 a.m. The motion carried unanimously. The WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee will next meet virtually via Webex on 15 February 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Approval

Submitted by Carol Weideman, secretary

Minutes approved this fifteenth day of March 2021.