

---

**WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee  
Minutes of 15 March 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 10:04 a.m. on 15 March 2021, via Webex video conferencing by Colleen Stano, chair.

**Roll Call**

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

**Members Absent:** Beth Ernst, Kathryn Thomsen, Kathryn Wagner, Kevin Wanner

**Advisory Members in Attendance:** Diana Blouin, James Cousins, Nick Gauthier, Anthony Helms, Melinda Lockett, Shannon Myers, Coleen Stano, Sharon VanDyken, Nicolas Witschi

**Advisory Members Absent:** Tammi Smith

**Guest:** Randy Ott, Director for Academic Success Programs, University College

**Ex Officio Member in Attendance:** Decker Hains

**Quorum**

A quorum was present.

**Agenda:**

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

**Minutes:**

It was moved by Kling, seconded by Eisenhart, to approve the 15 February minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Reports of Officers**

Chair Stano did not provide a report.

Ex Officio Hains reported that the current WMU Essential Studies course review process is scheduled to begin fall 2021 so review documents will need to be completed summer I. The proposed review schedule requires all instructors to submit documentation by end of fall 2021 and those reports will be evaluated spring 2022.

**Reports of Councils/Committees Standing Committee(s)**

Helms led a discussion of the unique needs for the Lee Honors College and the possibility of special WMU Essential Studies offerings that address those student needs. The initial stages will be presented at the next WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee meeting.

**Reports of Administrative Representatives**

WMU Essential Studies Interim Director Cousins proposed postponing the review and approval of all current proposals with the exception of WES\_ENVS4150\_L2020\_ENVS-102. The proposal are missing some components and were not available for the teams to review prior to this meeting. WMU Essential Studies support drop-ins have been scheduled.

Interim Curriculum Manager Witschi reported that the timeline for proposing general education courses has historically only been allowed during fall semesters. The Executive Board is reviewing this issue and a reply is expected before the next WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee meeting.

### **Unfinished Business**

Stano led a discussion regarding the draft of the course review processes. Edits were suggested. The committee will pilot the draft processes for fall 2020 and spring 2021 courses and provide feedback.

It was moved by Weideman, seconded by McGrady to approve WES\_ENVS4150 L2020\_ENVS-102 proposal. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Cousins, seconded by Weideman, to postpone proposals WES\_SCI\_2080, WES\_SCI\_2070, and WES\_SOC\_4420 to the next meeting. The motion carried.

### **New Business**

None.

### **Announcements**

Smith resigned her position on the WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee due to her appointment on the Academic Affairs Interdisciplinarity Committee.

### **Adjournment**

Stano adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m. WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee will next meet on 19 April 2021 via Webex virtual conferencing at 1:30 p.m.

### **Approval**

Submitted by Carol Weideman, Secretary

Minutes approved this nineteenth day of April 2021.