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**WMU ESSENTIAL STUDIES EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Minutes of 18 May 2021**

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee was called to order at 1 p.m. on 18 May 2021, via Webex video conferencing by Jonathan Bush, chair.

**Roll Call**

**Members Attending:** Elissa Allen, Jonathan Bush, Decker Hains Diane Riggs, Brian Tripp, Andre Venter

**Members Absent:** Kevin Knutson, Jessica Parker

**Advisory Members Attending:** Carrie Cumming, James Cousins, Matt Provenzale

**Ex Officio Attending:** Sarah Summy

**Guest(s):** Mary Lagerway, Chair, Nursing; Randy Ott, Director for Academic Collaboration; Colleen Stano, Chair, WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee

**Quorum**

A quorum was present.

**Agenda**

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

**Minutes**

Corrections were made.

It was moved by Hains, seconded by Tripp, to approve the minutes of 13 April 2021 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

**Reports of Officers**

Chair Bush did not provide a report.

Ex Officio Summy confirmed that committee communication should be directed to the Faculty Senate office.

**Reports of University Representatives**

WMU Essential Studies Interim Director James Cousins reported that Kalamazoo Valley Community College has requested that some of the KVCC courses be considered as equivalent for WMU Essential Studies level one and level two courses. Questions were raised about procedures for such requests and approvals. It was suggested that the course be reviewed by the WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee.

**Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees**

WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee chair Colleen Stano reported that the committee has had some attrition and will need new member in fall 2021. Curriculog is being implemented as the new online processing product for all course and program proposals as of fall 2021. A demonstration and training for Curriculog will be planned for fall 2021. The committee has yet to establish a timeline for the review cycle that will begin in fall 2021.

**Unfinished Business**

Planning for the WMU Essential Studies launch celebration has started in February but due to the pandemic were put on hold. The celebration will be rescheduled for fall 2021. Questions were raised regarding what the celebration will include, setting a date, and expenses previously guaranteed through the provost office.

**New Business**

Lagerway presented concerns of the impact WMU Essential Studies has on RN/BSN students transferring from other institutions. It is unclear what courses from students' previous institution can be applied. Advising has been done on a case-by-case basis without a clear pathway. Ideally there would be a set of courses that students would take to satisfy the WMU Essential Studies requirements, and that the listed courses would be in the third level so students could apply them to the program. A number of students come to the program with a gap of as much as 10 year in

their academic career, so coordinating past records with WMU Essential Studies is difficult. Discussion was held regarding BSN core liberal arts academic record that RN does not; difficult to fulfill categories of Artistic Theory and Practice and World Languages and Cultures; no possibility for waivers. Solutions offered included prior learning assessments to establish that students have met the requirements elsewhere; course substitutions crosswalk. The committee requested that the department provide a proposal to demonstrate correspondences.

**Announcements**

None.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Hains, seconded by Summy, to adjourn the meeting at 2:13 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval**

Submitted by Diane Riggs, Secretary

Minutes approved this fourteenth day of September 2021.