

**International Education Council
Minutes of 18 September 2025**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate International Education Council was called to order at 3 p.m. on 18 September 2025, via Webex conferencing by Bradford Dennis, chair.

Members Present: Stephen Covell, Bradford Dennis, Aishi Dhar Puja, Dyanne Foskey, Tarun Gupta, Lucius Hallett, Vanessa Hills, Michelle Metro-Roland, Shannon McMorro, Joseph Milostan, Anna Popkova, Nayab Tufail, Xiaodan (Abby) Wang

Members Absent: Anne Kairu, Elena Lisovskaya, Rosemary Max, Patricia Villalobos (substitute for Yuanliang Sun, Ying Zeng.

Advisory Member Present: Reetha Raveendran

Ex Officio: Wanda Hadley

Guest(s): Amy Naugle, Faculty Senate President

Quorum

A quorum was present with 17 members in attendance, of the nine needed to establish quorum.

Agenda

It was moved by Gupta, seconded by Wang, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Minutes

It was moved by Foskey, seconded by Gupta, to approve the 17 April 2025 minutes as presented. With one abstention the motion carried.

Reports of Officers

President Naugle presented the 2025-26 council charges She also introduced Ex Officio Hadley

Chair Dennis reported:

1. Where to locate the charges and schedule is the Faculty Senate IEC council webpageat: <https://wmich.edu/facultysenate/councils/international>, plus in the IEC Teams folder.
2. The preparations for the International Education Week starting 3 November through 7 November 2025 and encouraged everyone to share the information among their colleagues, including the college-level international committees. Link to international education week schedule: [:https://wmich.edu/global/events/international-education-week](https://wmich.edu/global/events/international-education-week)
3. The revival of the "You Are Welcome Here" campaign, also provided the link [:https://wmich.edu/global/welcome](https://wmich.edu/global/welcome)
4. The Faculty Senate executive board council and committee's meeting with the President in early September, highlighting the discussion about the challenges posed by the current political climate to higher education in general, to immigration, and to international students. Better and more transparent communication by the administration was discussed as important to quell fears and improve retention.

Ex Officio Hadley did not provide a report

Reports of University Representatives

Milostan provided the Haenicke Institute for Global Education report such that Associate Vice President Max will be working on a university-wide international travel policy.

-enrollment with a 10 % decrease from last year. The decrease was forecasted at a much higher rate.

New international student numbers are up from last year.

Funding to Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE) from American Association of University Professors (AAUP) last year, IEC voted that HIGE review the 2005 MOA and go back to awarding funds as they are described in the Memorandum. Currently, HIGE is working on the plan on how the funds will be utilized. The intention is to go back to make these funds available for faculty for international travel and global classrooms. We would like for the IEC to be involved with determining the distribution of the \$40 thousand awarded annually. Serving on the committee doesn't preclude a member from applying, but the member can't vote on their own application. Funds are only for faculty. Graduate students should apply for travel funds through the Graduate College. Should be all one paragraph

Metro-Roland added that the recipient of the Global Engagement Award has been selected, and invited all council members to the ceremony.

Graduate Student Association did not provide a report

Due to their absence the Western Student Association representative Tufeil reported that transportation is a serious issue. Metro-Roland reported previous initiative with vans.

Tufail, International Student Association representative did not provide a report.

Chair Dennis mentioned welcoming international students working group and a survey that is in the works on international students experiences to help with new international students' transition. Update on what students have been talking about, concerns: health insurance.

Reports of College International Committees

Gupta reported that the College of Engineering circled back to last year's unresolved issues of health insurance, transportation, and housing. Dean Butt traveled abroad, and established connections globally. One faculty member worked with a university from Hungary. Their students couldn't receive visa and didn't make it to WMU on time.

McMorrow reported that the Health and Human Services College held its first meeting was last week, with more representation on the committee than last year. Need to review tasks and priorities.

Popkova reported that the Arts and Sciences College has not yet held an official meeting but the committee is in the process of scheduling a meeting. Popkova met with Nic Witschi, Associate Dean, overseeing the international committee work and reviewed IEC charges and discussed coordination with IEC.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

It was moved by Milostan, seconded by Wang, to approve changes to IEC 2025-26 charges, the motion carried.

Chair Dennis asked for Ad Hoc Committee updates:

- a. Welcoming International Students – as a new committee, Chair Dennis we'll be asking for members to join this working group.
- b. Research subcommittee had no updates at this time
- c. Student Learning Outcomes had no updates at this time

Announcements

No announcements

Adjournment

It was moved by Milostan, seconded by Wang, to adjourn the meeting at 4:58 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The International Education Council will meet next on 9 October 2025 at 3 p.m. via Webex conferencing.

Approval

Submitted by Anna Popkova, Secretary

Minutes were approved (date/month) 2025.

DRAFT