
**International Education Council
Minutes of 16 March 2023****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 16 March 2023, via Webex video conferencing by David Huffman, chair.

Members in Attendance: Vuvu Antonio, Fathima Bachilee, Ellen Breakfield-Glick, Charles Bruce, Joan Conway, Bradford Dennis, Jessica Gladden (substitute for Shannon McMorrow), David Huffman, Elena Lisovskaya, Michelle Metro-Roland, Joseph Milostan, Jun-Seok Oh, Abby Wang, Jim Whittles,

Members Absent: Paulo Zagalo-Melo, German Zarate-Sandez (substitute for Anna Popkova)

Ex Officio in Attendance: Zeljka Vidic

Guest: Candy McCorkle, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Acceptance of the Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Milostan, seconded by Whittles, to accept the 16 March 2023 agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Whittles, seconded by Conway, to approve the minutes of 16 February 2023 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Huffman reported on his recent trip to Denmark and Sweden and summarized current world events. Chair Huffman summarized articles by Karin Fisher in the Chronicle of Higher Education, noting that some college admissions officers are recruiting students from Africa to attend college. The following articles were referenced:

- [A Big Bet on Africa?](#)
- [Enrollment Leaders Bet on Africa](#)

Chair Huffman reported that student enrollment from China is beginning to decline in the U.S., and Africa is home to more young people than any other continent. Zagalo-Melo and Milostan have been working with institutions in Portugal, and WMU could partner more with universities in Africa.

Ex Officio Vidic did not provide a report

Reports of University Representatives

Metro-Roland reported that the Global Engagement Award deadline has been extended to 15 April, and information has been sent out regarding this extension in WMU Today and other email lists.

Reports of Councils/Committees Standing Committees

Whittles reported that the College of Aviation international committee visitor from Greece met with Milostan and guests for dinner. Whittles announced that the College of Aviation now has an international Registered Student Organization (RSO) called the Professional Asian Pilots Association (PAPA). The College of Aviation international committee has been an ad hoc committee and is working to formalize the committee.

Gladden reported that the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) International Committee is working on various proposals regarding the support of international students:

- International student potluck
- Support for scholarships for students to attend international opportunities
- Compiled a list of 23 classes that include international opportunities for students
- Create an international CHHS RSO

Oh reported that the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS) International Committee members met in February. The committee discussed ideas about welcoming international students and creating a fund of contributions from faculty members, mentors, and alumni. The CEAS International Committee is also collecting personal contacts from faculty members to create official relationships internationally and to work together with Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE). Study Abroad is having difficulties with advising requirements and would like to provide more opportunities for students. The CEAS International Committee would like to compile the opportunities available in one area and to promote them.

Reports of Working Groups

Metro-Roland shared questionnaire results with IEC. The questionnaire had nine questions, and 22 responded. Metro-Roland reported that most faculty on Fulbright Awards were away for one semester, closely followed by two semesters. A large number of faculty were using sabbaticals for the Fulbright. It was questioned what kind of policies would make it more accessible for faculty. Faculty reported that support was favorable, and there were concerns that including a stipend may not be the same as faculty regular pay. Other concerns were how to cover teaching and housing. Respondents listed the benefits of the Fulbright award as published research, presentations, collaborations, hosting scholars, and grants applied for after receiving the Fulbright Award. Metro-Roland reported that the Fulbright Working Group is looking at best practices. Metro-Roland reported that there is [an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education about how to be a Fulbright-friendly university](#), and it included \$1,500 travel grants as a recommendation. Metro-Roland asked how WMU makes applying for Fulbright awards more attractive to faculty not on sabbatical. Metro-Roland reported that the Fulbright Working Group will have a set of recommendations at the 20 April IEC meeting. Metro-Roland would like IEC to present recommendations to the administration. A question was asked if this issue needed to be discussed with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). Metro-Roland reported that the working group might reach out to AAUP to inquire how these fit with tenure and promotion. Metro-Roland mentioned that the IEC committee members can contact her regarding this project.

Dennis reported that the Welcoming International Students Working Group worked on the draft report and added some more recommendations and consolidated previous recommendations. Dennis announced that the report should be ready to share at the 20 April 2023 IEC meeting.

Unfinished Business

Chair Huffman asked for comments and suggestions regarding Charges 3, 4, 5, and 6. Chair Huffman mentioned that Charge 3 discussion is to bring a global view into classes. Whittles mentioned that Charge 5 has not been addressed due to too many issues to accomplish this year.

Dennis reported that great progress is being made by the college's international committees. The CHHS International Committee is a great model, and the CEAS International Committee is taking up some of the same ideas.

Chair Huffman reported that for Charge 4 regarding the Global Classroom Collaborative, Metro-Rolland has made progress. Metro-Rolland responded that she would like to see more faculty development in this area. Chair Huffman also reported that the IEC has interacted with Research and Innovation, and WMU has made progress with global hubs initiatives to have WMU Essential Studies courses taught in Portugal.

New Business

McCorkle discussed the functions of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. She takes a very broad view of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), creating a space so that all feel included in the WMU family.

McCorkle reported that every fall, there is a pre-commencement event called a Multicultural Meet and Greet event, helping students to find community and connection. It is not only for international students. McCorkle has heard from international students that they appreciated the event. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion has oversight in the following groups and programs at WMU:

- Racial Justice Advisory Committee
- University Diversity Committee
- College Assistance Migrant Program
- Disability Services for Students
- Diversity Education
- Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay & Transgender (LBGT) Student Services
- Martin Luther King Jr. Student Scholars Academy
- Mentoring for Success Program
- Multicultural Affairs for Students

McCorkle reported that the Diversity Education program offers four workshops on understanding principles, and all of them have global elements. Cultural awareness events are offered as well as events on black history in February, Women's History in March, and American indigenous events in November. The event host presenters from different areas and keeps global perspective. McCorkle reported that Disability Services for Students is making accommodations to help students fully engage. This also includes the temporarily disabled and students on medical leave transitioning back to campus. McCorkle reported that Multicultural Affairs for Students has three grant-funded programs. The Martin Luther King grant for academic and social support, and a migrant support program for seasonal worker students and families to attend WMU. McCorkle reported that the Mentoring for Success Program provides tutoring for first-generation and first-year students. The program employs international tutors and work-study students.

Tony Proudfoot, Julian Vasquez Heilig, Diane Anderson, and Candy McCorkle are leading the new initiatives, Empowering Futures. The Navigator Program, including 11 recently hired navigators, is positively influencing student persistence and providing support. The navigators, as cohorts, are working with Asian Pacific, African American, and Latino students to make sure students are succeeding. McCorkle reported that Empowering Futures also offers housing scholarships. The program is adding a piece for transfer students to provide a transition. There is an internship for small businesses and non-profits to help pay for student worker stipends. LGBT Student Services provides support for students and is working closely with Sindecuse Health Center to help transgender students.

McCorkle reported that the Racial Justice Advisory Committee was created after the death of George Floyd. Issues were addressed and focused on the DEI curriculum integration and on advocacy for faculty and staff. A position was approved to hire an Associate Vice Provost for DEI. The committee is moving from recommendations to implementation and assessing the impact on campus.

McCorkle mentioned that she is often asked how others can help. She recommended looking at recommendations and seeing where your voice can move those things forward. Some initiatives may be targeted to certain groups but may be applicable to a greater community. McCorkle recommended continuing to grow to impact all areas of campus. McCorkle met with the AAUP, which ratified that the faculty had DEI training.

Dennis reported that he and his colleague recently wrote an article about their research indicating that a consultation with a librarian reduces academic stress for students. McCorkle was asked which group under her purview would be most appropriate to contact so that the message could be distributed to students that this service is available. McCorkle recommended sending the abstract of the article, and she will forward it to the Empowering Futures group.

Metro-Rolland announced that HIGE is launching a global engagement award. McCorkle announced that there is also an Excellence in Diversity Award.

McCorkle reported that Global Connect Kalamazoo is a great international group that is always looking to host international visitors. Several have spoken on DEI issues, women's rights, poverty, race, and LGBTQ issues from Nepal, Sudan, Chad, Madagascar, and Gibraltar. McCorkle reported that inequities are global issues, not just domestic. In January 2023, Global Connect Kalamazoo hosted a group from Brazil and religious scholars from Iran and Iraq.

McCorkle encouraged council members to go through all four DEI trainings.

Announcements

Chair Huffman reported that the IEC draft report for the year will be presented, and voting for new officers will occur in the next meeting on 20 April.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Whittles, seconded by Dennis, to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously. The International Education Council meets next on 20 April 2023, via Webex video conferencing.

Approval

Submitted by Bradford Dennis, Secretary

Minutes approved on 20 April 2023.