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**International Education Council  
Minutes of 16 November 2023****Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate International Education Council was called to order at 3:02 p.m. on 16 November 2023, via Webex video conferencing by Bradford Dennis, chair.

**Members in Attendance:** Eric Archer, Ellen Breakfield-Glick, Joan Conway, Bradford Dennis, Zoya Kaleem, Shannon McMorro, Michele Metro-Roland, Ann Miles (substitute for Elena Lisovskaya), Joseph Milostan, Anna Popkova, Abby Wang, Jim Whittles, Paulo Zagalo-Melo

**Members Absent:** Tarun Gupta, Lucius Hallett (substitute for Nick Padilla), Macy Potter

**Ex Officio in Attendance:** Osama Abudayyeh

**Quorum**

A quorum was present with 14 members in attendance, of the nine needed to establish quorum.

**Agenda**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Kaleem, seconded by Breakfield-Glick, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Abudayyeh, seconded by Wang, to approve the 12 October 2023 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Reports of Officers**

Chair Dennis reported his IEC presentation at the Faculty Senate 2 November meeting. He relocated the working groups folder to Teams. Chair Dennis noted that IEC members need to reach out to students whose countries are caught up in political crises, to provide emotional support. Metro-Roland reported that WMU does not currently have any students from Israel, Palestine, or Gaza. However, there is a program Institute of International Education Emergency Student Funds available. Zagalo-Melo stated that it is standard procedure for Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE) to reach out to students from countries in crisis.

Ex Officio Abudayyeh did not provide a report.

**Reports of University Representatives**

Zagalo-Melo provided the report for HIGE:

1. Zagalo-Melo, Provost Vasquez Heilig, and representatives from HCOB had returned from meetings in Taiwan where they attended the graduation ceremony of MBA students. There are 72 MBA students who have received their degrees through WMU's program in Taiwan.
2. The same group also traveled to Macao to meet with the Macao University of Science and Technology regarding establishing a degree program in business and cybersecurity.
3. There is a great deal of interest in such programs abroad, however, demand is greater than WMU can staff. The capacity or interest from departments to initiate these programs is lacking.

Kaleem did not provide a report.

Due to her absence, Potter did not provide a report.

**Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees**

The following College-level International Committees reports were provided:

1. Breakfield-Glick reported that the School of Music is establishing a recital featuring international students.
2. Dennis reported that the Student Welcome Group Committee will meet next week.
3. Metro-Roland did not provide Fulbright report.

4. Milostan reported that the Study Abroad workgroup met yesterday and drafted language for charges.

### **Unfinished Business**

Ex Officio Abudayyeh reported that the Executive Board approved the amendments for charge 2. Charge 5 remains as was originally worded, acknowledging that IEC must provide a written report to the Executive Board with results of the Podium Education - Global Tech pilot study and recommendations or an MOA. Chair Dennis referenced the Faculty Senate website stating that MOAs are the faculty's path to affecting University Policy.

Chair Dennis inquired if IEC should revise the council scope statement. Zagalo-Melo suggested establishing a connection with Student Affairs, and increasing the council membership to include a representative from Student Affairs. HIGE is often perceived as delivering all services to international students, but HIGE is not set up to provide health, housing, or registration services to students. These services are provided by the University for international students to access. Issues which are a burden for other University units often get pushed to HIGE. Abudayyeh will confer with the Executive Board about adding a council member and the role the new member would have.

### **New Business**

Zagalo-Melo reported that a change had been made to winter break student housing such that no alternative housing arrangements are being made for students that need to stay on campus during the winter break. This change affects international students who cannot return home for financial or visa reasons. In the past, the University had arranged alternative residence halls that students could pay for during the break. This year, eight weeks before the end of the residence hall contract, Residence Life informed HIGE that all students would have to vacate campus. It is estimated that 20 international students will be affected. Zagalo-Melo negotiate with Staybridge Suites to house those students. Staybridge has offered to provide transportation to campus and some social events. A special rate was negotiated, and HIGE is looking to secure funding. Discussion was held and council members expressed frustration regarding this change. Concern was expressed that this serves as a barrier to recruitment and retention and is not a sustainable solution. It was stated that peer institutions make on-campus accommodations for students during winter break, as WMU had done in past years. It is not known if or how affected students were informed. Chair Dennis will contact the WSA and International Student Council to ensure affected students are aware. Dennis and Zagalo-Melo will draft a communication to executive leadership expressing the council's position on the winter break housing situation.

It was suggested to invite Barry Olson, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, to an upcoming meeting.

It was also suggested that a representative from HIGE be added to the Director of Residence Life search committee.

Chair Dennis will be scheduling speakers from the college international committees to report at future IEC meetings on what makes their committees successful. A point person was identified for each committee.

### **Announcements**

None.

### **Adjournment**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Archer, seconded by Milostan, to adjourn the meeting at 4:39 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The International Education Council will meet next on 7 December 2023 at 3 p.m. via Webex via video conferencing

### **Approval**

Submitted by Joan Conway, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 7 December 2023.