
**International Education Council
Minutes of 20 November 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 20 November 2025, via Webex conferencing by Bradford Dennis, chair.

Members Present: Stephen Covell, Bradford Dennis, Dyanne Foskey, Tarun Gupta, Vanessa Hills, Anne Kairu, Rosemary Max, Shannon McMorrow, Joseph Milostan, Anna Popkova, Nayab Tufail, Xiaodan Wang

Members Absent: Aishi Dhar Puja, Lucius Hallett, Elena Lisovskaya, Michelle Metro-Roland, Yuanliang Sun, Tate Wierda, Ying Zeng

Advisors Present: Brian Childs, Reetha Raveendran

Ex Officio: Wanda Hadley

Guest: Christopher Cheatham, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Quorum

A quorum was present with 13 members in attendance of the 11 needed for a quorum.

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Covell, seconded by Hadley, to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Hills, seconded by Foskey, to approve the 9 October 2025 minutes as presented. The motion passed.

Reports of University Representatives

Max provided the Haenicke Institute for Global Education report, which included:

- a. Feedback for Faculty Senate Presentation – Max

The December faculty Senate will have an international focus. Joe and Brian will cover for Dr. Max.

Dr. Max discussed developments in the five key areas of HIGE's focus. First, international students: 3-year recruiting plan (2026-2029); HIGE did a 10-year back review of partners/partnerships. One of the key areas for collaboration (with Senate) is to focus on how to do better with Master's admissions of international students. HIGE hired an additional recruiter, plus hiring a marketing expert focused on recruitment. Current international students: some clarity on health insurance, additional emergency funds, working on transportation issue, developing a survey.

Second, study Abroad: faculty-led programs are most popular. Developing a new process to support faculty leading SA programs. Want to add more programs.

Third, campus internationalization: Global Engagement Program (GEP), HIGE will be evaluating the program – how does it serve those who don't study abroad? International Education week in November was a success.

Fourth, WMU's international presence: funds to engage international alumni. Developing strong alumni network. Doubled funds for faculty international travel and Global Classrooms. Something for the future: global engagement dashboard to better understand how we are doing – format unclear for now but very much needed.

Fifth, budget panning: endowments available, need to align those with goals. Looking for additional funding.

Important clarification on H1B visas – if an individual is already in the U.S. on a different visa (e.g. student F1 visa) and needs an H1B visa to start a job in the U.S., the 100K visa fee doesn't apply.

Discussion about international student admissions and the challenges/barriers associated with the process.

Due to Puja absence, no Graduate Student Association report was provided.

Tufail extended an invitation to the council members to attend the ISC General Assembly meeting on Tuesday, 2 December, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Student Center Fire Lounge to provide details about MetroLink.

Due to Wierda's absence, no Western Student Association report was provided.

Childs provided details of the developments with Metro Transit and WMU. A recent meeting was held, including the Executive Director of Kalamazoo Metro Transit, who explained the MetroLink (app) based on rideshare services. What's unclear is whether or not students can actually use it for transportation to and from the main campus, because the main campus is in the zone that MetroLink doesn't serve because this zone is considered served by regular Metro buses. Childs will follow up to gain clarity.

Chair Dennis discussed the progress on global student learning outcomes. He presented a PowerPoint with the changes and updates. Feedback included suggestions on working with units and departments across the university to incorporate these into various aspects of WMU teaching in meaningful ways. The curriculum proposal process might be a concern, particularly for courses that involve global perspectives. **[MOTION]** It was moved by Covell, seconded by Foskey, to approve the Global Student Learning Outcomes language as presented. The motion carried.

Chair Dennis did not provide a report.

Ex Officio Hadley clarified the process for adding Brian Childs as an advisory member to the IEC.

Cheetham provided an overview regarding support for international education at WMU. Discussed progress on reducing barriers to internationalization at WMU, for example, trying to reduce the \$700 international student fee. There are many challenges that are out of his control, so the provost office has to ensure that his office does its best on topics that are within its control. Additionally, he explained that internationalization is not just about study abroad but also about being embedded in other areas of the university life. A question raised regarding financial support for international students, since they are not eligible for the typical financial aid and/or scholarships. Various scenarios and potential options were discussed. Discussion continued regarding barriers for Empowering Futures funds being used for international education, and how the IEC members can assist in increasing international enrollment.

Unfinished Business

None.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Milostan, seconded by Wang, to adjourn the meeting at 4:53 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The International Education Council will meet next on 11 December 2025 via Webex at 3 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Anna Popkova, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 11 December 2025.