

International Education Council
REVISED Minutes of 21 September 2023

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate International Education Council was called to order at 3:01 p.m. on 21 September 2023, via Webex video conferencing by Bradford Dennis, chair.

Members in Attendance: Eric Archer, Ellen Breakfield-Glick, Joan Conway, Bradford Dennis, Lucius Hallett (substitute for Nick Padilla), Zoya Kaleem, Shannon McMorrow, Michele Metro-Roland, Joseph Milostan, Macy Potter, Abby Wang, Jim Whittles, Paulo Zagalo-Melo

Members Absent: Tarun Gupta, Elena Lisovskaya, Anna Popkova

Ex Officio in Attendance: Osama Abudayyeh

Guest: Sarah Summy, Faculty Senate President

Quorum

A quorum was present with 14 members in attendance, of the 16 needed to establish quorum.

Agenda

Chair Dennis proposed changes to move Working Groups 8.b to New Business.

[MOTION] It was moved by Zagalo-Melo seconded by Milostan, to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Archer, seconded by Whittles, to approve the 18 May 2023 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Corrections are needed in past 2022-23 minutes to show Archer as present with Charles Bruce as substitute.

International Education Council Charges

President Summy presented International Education Council 2023-24 charges.

Election of Officers

Discussion with limited activity from members.

1. Archer nominated Whittles. Whittles will fill the position of vice chair through December 2023.

[MOTION] It was moved by Archer, seconded by Abudayyeh, to elect Whittles as vice chair of IEC through December 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

2. There were no nominations or volunteers for secretary. McMorrow volunteered to take minutes for today's meeting. The position of secretary will need to be voted on at the next meeting or do pro tem for each meeting.

Reports of Officers

Chair Dennis reported on his meeting with Zagalo-Melo, Metro-Roland and Milostan to set forth the agenda and charges for this year. Chair Dennis attended the Faculty Senate Council /Committee Chair training and recommended it for future IEC officers. A key goal for chair Dennis is to have a better repository of historical and active working documents for IEC. A PowerPoint for clarification on details will be posted in the Teams folder. There will be an IEC presentation at the Faculty Senate meeting on 2 November.

Ex Officio Abudayyeh did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

The following issues of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE) were discussed:

1. Zagalo-Melo reported that there are 413 new international students from 58 different countries, 155 undergraduate and 258 graduate students. The total at WMU main campus is 1,228, which is 8% of total enrollment on main campus, slight drop from 8.1% last year to 7.6% this year. The 1,228 students are from 91 countries, a diverse global representation at WMU. There are 2,084 international students taking WMU programs, which includes over 800 students in programs at other WMU campuses. Census is missing 300 students that will be enrolling later this month. International enrollment this year confirms the trend of more graduate than undergraduate, which is different than the prior 6 or 7 years. Some of the heavier undergraduate markets are not sending as many students. There is an unprecedented number of visa denials; percentage overall was 35%. More than 1/3 students who had been admitted were denied the visa.
2. HIGE is visiting colleges with four different types of presentations to each college; starting with Haworth College of Business (HCOB) in September and College of Engineering (COE) in October. The colleges were asked that these presentations be their “global engagement day”.
3. Starting 2 October, Archer will be a faculty fellow with global education with the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) and HIGE. Archer will be assisting with a variety of global education initiatives. Archer asked how HIGE has related to colleges and how IEC can help and support that process. An example of how faculty in COE a recent request about how to implement an international partnership was given. Chair Dennis noted that this is a good opportunity to move the college committees back to meeting more often. Zagalo-Melo noted that he advocated with administrators to encourage activation. Archer noted that IEC can take a more active role in getting things renewed and going to college meetings. A coordinated approach was recommended. Chair Dennis mentioned he is willing to meet with college international committees. Zagalo-Melo noted HIGE is working with colleges for future scheduling.
4. Breakfield-Glick commented that the College of Fine Arts committee has been dormant, but there are activities happening. She recommended having guidelines or objectives for reasons for colleges to have international councils. Chair Dennis noted that active college committees could guide other colleges and mentioned CHHS as an example. Zagalo-Melo agreed that offering guidance from IEC would be helpful to create more of reciprocal communication. An example is to have colleges share their work with IEC at the end of the year. McMorrow stated that having IEC be more connected to college committees is needed to enhance understanding of faculty about IEC in general.

Kaleem noted lack of representation of international students on Western Student Association (WSA). Now that the international student council has been formed, there is more international student representation. Kaleem is working on getting more feedback and activity with international students.

Potter reported that the Graduate Student Association (GSA) has been offline since spring 2023. A group is working on strengthening and reactivating GSA. The goal is to back online in spring 2024 for lead officers and have other officers in summer 2024. Funding applications and one-on-one tutoring are available.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

The following were presented on college-level international committees:

1. Wang reported that HCOB met in September 2023 and Milostan presented study abroad. Wang presented several statistics about the HCOB study abroad offerings and participation. HCOB has an active council because several faculties have interest in leading study abroad.
2. McMorrow shared that CHHS also met in September, and an event is planned for November to host a meal for students. This event started last year under Pam Wadsworth’s leadership. Students had a kickoff event. McMorrow shared that the representation from across the college is low with only three of the seven-unit representatives attending. The current goal is to broaden participation.
3. Archer will meet with the CEHD dean to reignite more faculty involvement and to set vision/goals for the college committee.
4. Whittles mentioned some short-term study abroad programs within Aviation with the Hellenic American Association in Greece.

5. Hallett noted that the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) dean distributed a note recently to reignite the CAS committee which has been dormant for three or four years.

Chair Dennis reported that the reports of working groups were completed at the end of the academic year 2023.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Chair Dennis presented the 2023-24 charges. He will review them for IEC discussion and ask for questions and comments. Chair Dennis suggested merging charges 2 and 3 and recommended text. Archer agreed on combining them and suggested adding language "in a faculty member's area of teaching, scholarship, and research"...or wording along those lines. He noted concern with "individual programs" and potential silo effects.

[MOTION] It was moved by Archer, seconded by Dennis, to approve the new language for Charge 2. The motion carried.

Chair Dennis shared charge 3 to replace the old charge 3. Discussion led McMorrow to share concern about the word "implement" since that may be beyond the purview. IEC discussed how to continue the discussion and to advocate for this type of activity but not note that IEC will directly implement. This was part of David Huffman's final report. Metro-Rolland asked Abudayyeh if we could postpone the discussion to October to further discuss and finalize this and all of the charges.

[MOTION] It was moved by Metro-Rolland, seconded by Archer, to postpone discussion of charge 3 to IEC October meeting. The motion carried.

The remainder of the charges will be discussed at the 12 October meeting.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Archer, seconded by Whittles, to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The International Education Council will meet next on 12 October 2023 at 3 p.m. via Webex via Webex video conferencing

Approval

Submitted by Shannon McMorrow, Secretary Pro Tem

Minutes were approved on 12 October 2023.