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**International Education Council**

Minutes of 12 October 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 12 October 2023, via Webex video conferencing by Bradford Dennis, chair.

**Members in Attendance:** Eric Archer, Ellen Breakfield-Glick, Joan Conway, Bradford Dennis, Tarun Gupta, Shannon McMorrow, Michele Metro-Roland, Joseph Milostan, Anna Popkova, Macy Potter, Abby Wang, Jim Whittles, Paulo Zagalo-Melo

**Members Absent:** Lucius Hallett (substitute for Nick Padilla), Zoya Kaleem, Elena Lisovskaya

**Ex Officio in Attendance:** Osama Abudayyeh

**Quorum**

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

**Election of Officer**

Conway volunteered to serve as secretary.

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Abudayyeh, seconded by Archer, to elect Conway as secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Archer seconded by Whittles, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes**

Correction to the College of Health and Human Services event to be held in November, not October as stated in September 2023 minutes is needed.

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Abudayyeh, seconded by Zagalo-Melo, to approve the 21 September 2023 minutes with correction. The motion carried.

**Reports of Officers**

Chair Dennis reported that IEC will be presenting at the Faculty Senate meeting on 2 November. Milostan is now a permanent member of IEC.

Ex Officio Abudayyeh reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Board approved IEC Charge 2.

**Reports of University Representatives**

The following Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE) events were reported:

1. Zagalo-Melo reported that he is working with the Iraqi embassy to get short-term programs for Iraqi professionals in engineering and medicine. During the last Iraqi scholarship program, WMU was second in the nation for hosting Iraqi scholars, a total of 100 graduate students.
2. NAFSA, the Association of International Educators, celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a summit in October and another upcoming in November. Of the 8,000 members, WMU was one of the eight institutions invited. The topic was sustaining success in international education.
3. The International Festival will be held during the fall semester for the first time on Sunday, 15 October from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. The festival, which typically attracts over a thousand students and community members, will be at Miller Auditorium.

Due to his absence, Kaleem did not provide a report.

Potter did not provide a report.

## Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

The following were presented on college-level international committees:

1. Archer reported that the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) international committee will be reactivated and start meeting on a regular basis.
2. McMorrow shared that the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) international committee is starting to meet again.
3. Popkova reported that the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) international committee has not been active. Popkova will check on reactivating the committee. Chair Dennis suggested that the more active international committees could speak to other, less active committees. Zagalo-Melo suggested inviting international committee chairs to upcoming IEC meetings to share their activities.

## Unfinished Business

1. Consolidation of charges 2 and 3 into charge 2 was approved by the Faculty Senate Executive Board.
2. Dennis reported that Charge 3 was approved on 18 May meeting but missed the 2023-24 list. Charge 3 has been changed to resemble last year's charge 7. New Charge 3: "Develop and recommend best practices for ensuring that international students at WMU are made to feel welcome and directly connect with U.S. based students in real and meaningful ways. Conclude the initiative by producing a report to the Executive Board or a Memorandum of Action." The language IEC discussed at the September meeting used the word implemented. It was removed due to IEC not being able to implement all the recommendations. IEC agreed to use the language approved last year.

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Archer, seconded by McMorrow, to remove the word "implemented" on Charge 3. The motion passed.

3. Charge 5 addresses WMU's partnership with Podium Education regarding the Global Tech program. Zagalo-Melo reported that the new charge has been approved. Global Tech offers global classroom courses which include students from around the world. Podium, which hires well-qualified instructors, makes frequent use of the case study method and features cases from well-known global companies. These courses are like virtual study abroad. WMU piloted these courses as they would a study abroad program. Although HIGE had not intended this, the courses were launched as "internships". Some faculty saw these courses as taking teaching hours from them and not allowing them to control curricula. Four hundred students expressed initial interest in the courses, however, only 31 students were approved to take and receive credit for the Global Tech classes. Although feedback from WMU students was positive, it was decided not to run any more Global Tech programs until departments request them. WMU was among the first 20 universities asked to participate in Global Tec classes, and there are now 71 universities participating. Podium is amenable to customizing courses for WMU.
  - a. Chair Dennis clarified that Global Tech is the name of the product not the company and proposed changing Global Tech to Podium Education, Global Tech. After comments and discussion, Chair Dennis revised the charge to read:
    - i. "Review WMU's partnership with Podium Education regarding the Global Tech experience. Make recommendations on further collaborations. Conclude the initiative by producing a report to the Executive Board or a Memorandum of Action."

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Archer, seconded by Zagalo-Melo, to revise the wording on Charge 5. The motion passed.

4. No changes are made regarding charges 6,7,8, 9, and 10.
5. Chair Dennis presented a list of 10 potential guest speakers for IEC meetings for this year. Archer suggested to include Dr. Danyelle Gregory, Associate Vice-President of Diversity and Inclusion. Chair Dennis will send a ballot via e-mail to IEC members to indicate their top five choices.
6. The volunteers for 2023-24 Working Groups are:
  - a. Welcoming Working Group: Metro-Roland, Wang, Dennis, Breakfield-Glick
  - b. Fulbright Group: Archer, Metro-Roland, McMorrow, Gupta
  - c. Study Abroad: Milostan, Archer
7. Metro-Roland reported on the Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence program administered by Institute of International Education (IIE). WMU was awarded one of 45 institutional awards. As a result, Dr.

Mauricio Dominguez from the Yucatan is working on climate change. Metro-Roland is working on Marcam story about Dr. Dominguez. There will be a reception on 17 October 2023. Archer asked Metro-Roland about a refugee fund for scholars under threat. WMU have not previously participated in IIE's Scholar Rescue Fund.

8. Study abroad program activities and course contact hours: the proposal form for faculty requesting to lead study abroad course has language that Milostan and Zagalo-Melo would like to propose to change. The proposal form states how faculty are allowed to total contact hours. According to the current form, the hours spent with students during field trip/museum tours only count 50%. The form seems to imply that it is the purview of HIGE to decide how hours are counted. Ex Officio Abudayyeh stated that according to academic freedom policies, the instructor can decide how hours are counted and that Study Abroad/HIGE can make the desired changes to their form. The proposed changes bring the form into compliance with university curricular policy. IEC agreed that when counting contact hours, field trip hours count as much as instructional hours in any other location. The Study Abroad Working Group will work on changes to the application and present it to IEC.
9. McMorrow presented the topic of research budget cuts. Discussion followed on the impact of research cuts to internationalization and international education at WMU and on whether this could be brought up. The Travel Fund will go back to \$800, but not to the previous \$2,500. Discussion followed about the use of funds and lack of investment by the Office of Research and Innovation. IEC will invite Remzi Seker to speak about this topic if selected as one of IEC speakers for 2023-24.
10. Chair Dennis motion to postpone the Memorandum of Action process and unaddressed items as Old Business at the next IEC meeting.  
**[MOTION]** It was moved by Zagalo-Melo, seconded by Milostan, to postpone unaddressed agenda items until 16 November meeting. The motion passed.

#### **New Business**

None.

#### **Announcements**

None.

#### **Adjournment**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Archer, seconded by Milostan, to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The International Education Council will meet next on 16 November 2023 at 3 p.m. via Webex via Webex video conferencing

#### **Approval**

Submitted by Joan Conway, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 16 November 2023.