

International Education Council

Minutes of 7 December 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 7 December 2023, via Webex video conferencing by Bradford Dennis, chair.

Members in Attendance: Eric Archer, Joan Conway, Bradford Dennis, Shannon McMorrow, Michele Metro-Roland, Ann Miles (substitute for Elena Lisovskaya), Joseph Milostan, Abby Wang, Jim Whittles, Paulo Zagalo-Melo

Members Absent: Ellen Breakfield-Glick, Tarun Gupta, Lucius Hallett (substitute for Nick Padilla), Zoya Kaleem, Anna Popkova, Macy Potter

Ex Officio in Attendance: Osama Abudayyeh

Guests: Zoe Crowe-Barnes, Podium Education; Chris Parrish, Podium Education

Quorum

A quorum was present with 11 members in attendance, of the nine needed to establish quorum.

Agenda

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Abudayyeh, seconded by Wang, to approve the 16 November 2023 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Dennis reported that Barry Olson, Associate Vice-President for Student Affairs will be the guest speaker at our January 2024 meeting to discuss adding a representative from Student Affairs to IEC. This move could enhance communication between Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE), IEC, and Student Affairs in order to make international students feel welcome on our campus. Zagalo-Melo mentioned that international students often find themselves involved in academic integrity misunderstandings. It would be helpful to have insight into these disciplinary issues and provide the review panels cross-cultural training. IEC postponed the subject of adding a Student Affairs representative until the next meeting with Olson. Abudayyeh suggested that Faculty Senate may be open to the idea; the issue is whether this would be a voting or non-voting member.

Ex Officio Abudayyeh did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

Zagalo-Melo reported on the arrangements made with Staybridge Suites to house international students who will not be offered housing in the dorms during the winter break. It was suggested that the University have a procedure in place to determine students who need accommodation during break.

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

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

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Postponed until January 2024 meeting.

Unfinished Business

Chair Dennis postponed the speakers for the IEC until January 2024 meeting.

New Business

Parrish and Crowe-Barnes from Podium Education presented on Global Tech, a virtual learning program

designed to provide students with real-world experiences that simulate on-the-job training. These online classes expand access to different kinds of learning around global experiences and professional skill building. Global Tech, which partners one-on-one with universities and custom designs programs under their brand, works with 56 American universities. On the online classes, students work alongside students from other universities and other countries. Students choose one of three tracks: Global Marketing, Global Data, and Coding. Content is built around real-world issues facing well-known American companies. Students can earn micro-credential badges. WMU piloted a Global Tech course over the summer and received good reviews from participants, but some WMU instructors commented that these types of courses take teaching hours away from faculty. Zagalo-Melo pointed out that Study Abroad courses often use instructors who are not WMU faculty. The Faculty Senate has charged HIGE with evaluating these concerns. Archer is going to advocate for a Memorandum of Action to try to incorporate these types of courses into our structure.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Whittles, seconded by Zagalo-Melo, to adjourn the meeting at 5:02 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The International Education Council will meet next on 18 January 2024 at 3 p.m. via Webex via video conferencing

Approval

Submitted by Joan Conway, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 18 January 2024.