

International Education Council

Minutes of 18 January 2024

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 18 January 2024, via Webex video conferencing by Bradford Dennis, chair.

Members in Attendance: Ellen Breakfield-Glick, Joan Conway, Bradford Dennis, Lucius Hallett, Zoya Kaleem, Elena Lisovskaya, Shannon McMorrow, Michele Metro-Roland, Anna Popkova, Macy Potter, Abby Wang, Jim Whittles

Members Absent: Eric Archer, Tarun Gupta, Joseph Milostan, Paulo Zagalo-Melo

Ex Officio in Attendance: Osama Abudayyeh

Guest: Barry Olson, Vice President, Student Affairs

Quorum

A quorum was present with 13 members in attendance, of the nine needed to establish quorum.

Agenda

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Kaleem, seconded by Wang, to approve the 7 December 2023 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Dennis welcomed Lisovskaya back and announced that Hallett will now be the official representative of the College of Arts and Sciences. Chair Dennis announced that Remzi Seker, Vice President of Research and Innovation, will be the speaker at the February IEC meeting. The guests for March IEC meeting will be chairs and members of the college-level international committees. IEC will discuss initiatives taken to carry out best practices and attract members to the international committees. Chair Dennis is in process of writing a letter to the Faculty Senate requesting that an administrator from Student Affairs be added to IEC. Feedback from IEC is requested on the letter to Diane Anderson, Vice President of Student Affairs regarding lack of student dorm housing during the winter break. These letters can be accessed in the Teams folder named Faculty Senate, Docs 2023-4.

Ex Officio Abudayyeh did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

Due to his absence, Zagalo-Melo did not provide a report.

Kaleem reported that the president of the Western Student Association (WSA) resigned and replace by the WSA Chief of Finance, Melissa Powers.

Potter reported that the Graduate Student Association (GSA) has opened nominations for the GSA executive board until 1 February.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

McMorrow reported that the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) has a successful fall semester luncheon for CHHS international students and plans another luncheon for the spring semester.

Chair Dennis reported that the Welcoming International Students Committee met on 14 December and will hold regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month from 3 to 4 p.m.

Metro-Roland announced that there will be a reception for Fulbright Scholars on 9 February from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Richmond Center. The Fulbright working group will report to IEC in February.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Chair Dennis mentioned that he is willing to attend college-level international committee meetings.

There were discussions on the following:

1. How to move forward with IEC charges
2. Global learning outcomes that may already exist at WMU and how they could be coordinated and easily accessed
3. How IEC can support internalization for faculty
4. Questions to ask Remzi Seker at the February IEC meeting include:
 - a. Ethics board regulations when doing research abroad
 - b. Funding for tenure tract faculty and others to attend international conferences
5. The recently completed Campus Compass, a survey of student attitudes and feelings
 - a. Investigate whether responses from international students can be extracted from the data.

Olson joined the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Chair Dennis will request Faculty Senate to add Olson as a permanent, non-voting member of IEC. Questions were asked regarding unavailability of dorm housing during the past winter break. Olson replied with the following:

1. The office of Students Affairs did not realize that housing was part of the contract with students from Papua, New Guinea.
2. The dorms have been filled and there was scant inventory, widely scattered among the residence building.
3. Student Affairs were able to house Seita scholars at Pretty Lake Camp.
4. Five international students were accommodated at Staybridge Suites.
5. There are plans in motion to use Britton-Hadley for the winter break this coming year.
6. Considering activities that can be arranged for the students during the break and how occasional meals can be provided by interested entities.
7. Student Affairs office is working on providing short-term housing for graduate students arriving in July 2024.
8. Student Affairs office is communicating with students to find out their needs.
9. There will be intersession housing in December.

Other questions directed to Olson were:

10. Academic integrity issues that plague some international students - Olson suggested that IEC invite Sarah Meiser, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities as a guest speaker to address this issue.
11. Guidance to disabled international students who are seeking on-campus jobs - Olson replied that this was certainly possible and he will follow up.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by McMorrow, seconded by Wang, to adjourn the meeting at 5:03 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The International Education Council will meet next on 15 February 2024 at 3 p.m. via Webex via video conferencing.

Approval

Submitted by Joan Conway, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 15 February 2024.