

International Education Council

Minutes of 18 April 2024

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

Members in Attendance: Eric Archer, Joan Conway, Bradford Dennis, Tarun Gupta, Lucius Hallett, Shannon McMorro, Michele Metro-Roland, Joseph Milostan, Anna Popkova, Abby Wang, Paulo Zagalo-Melo

Members Absent: Ellen Breakfield Glick, Zoya Kaleem, Elena Lisovskaya, Barry Olson, Macy Potter, Jim Whittles

Ex Officio in Attendance: Osama Abudayyeh

Guests: Carla Koretsky, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Nicolas Witschi, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Quorum

A quorum was present with 12 members in attendance, of the nine needed to establish quorum.

Agenda

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Milostan, seconded by Wang, to approve the 21 March 2024 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Election of 2024-25 International Education Council Officers

Chair Dennis reviewed the election rules. Dennis was nominated for chair. Wang was nominated for vice chair. Popkova was nominated for secretary.

[MOTION] It was moved by Milostan, seconded by Abudayyeh, to elect Dennis as chair, Wang as vice chair, and Popkova as secretary for 2024-25 IEC. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Dennis reported on his visit with the delegation of educators from Albania. Chair Dennis reported that a report on IEC March meeting panel was distributed.

Ex Officio Abudayyeh did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

Zagalo-Melo reported the following:

1. Retirement of Conway and Lee Ryder from Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE).
2. Talks with universities in Uzbekistan, Hungary and the Dominican Republic.
3. Zagalo-Melo and Provost Julian Vasquez Heilig future visit to China Ghuizou University of Finance and Economics (GUFEE) and a partner university in Japan where there will be an alumni reunion.
4. Presentation on global classrooms to the Academic Forum on 17 April.

Kaleem did not provide a report due to her absence.

Potter did not provide a report due to her absence.

Considering these absences, Archer asked for suggestions to increase student participation. Chair Dennis suggested to request presence of student groups to 2024-25 IEC meetings. Metro-Roland suggested to involve students in IEC subcommittees.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Popkova reported that the College of Arts and Science international Committee is planning on meeting.

McMorrow will chair the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) International Committee. As CHHS interviews for a new dean, McMorrow is asking the candidates questions relating to internationalization.

The Welcoming Students Working Group is closing the feedback loop and designing a survey to distribute to international students. There are plans to work with Barry Olson, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, on student housing issues.

Metro-Roland presented Fulbright Scholars in HIGE's presentation to the Academic Forum. MARCAM was contacted to do a story on a student who won a competitive Fulbright Scholarship to Spain. A Memorandum of Action (MOA) regarding Podium Education/Global Tech was presented and feedback was requested.

[MOTION] It was moved by Archer, seconded by Milostan, to accept the Podium Education/Global Tech MOA. The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Speaker

Koretsky reported that the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) paused all committees except Curriculum and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) during the covid pandemic. Committees are now reconvening. The goals for 2017-2018 and past work were shared. CAS updated charges and now has a 2024-28 Strategic Plan which includes strategic partnerships, international program partnerships, and external funding opportunities for research. Witschi stated that although formal international committee work may have paused, interested faculty have still been active, and there is a Global and International Studies major. Koretsky responded to the question that evaluation of Study Abroad programs has never been done at the departmental level and helped in encouraging interest in international committees. Zagalo-Melo encouraged Koretsky to invite HIGE to meetings with new instructors to explain globalization priorities and to encourage the idea of global classrooms. Witschi mentioned that WMU Essential Studies faculty are being urged to globalize their instruction. Koretsky stated that while the university has dropped its language requirement, CAS has proudly maintained the requirement. There was a question regarding how global engagement can be included in hiring and tenure/promotion decisions. In answer to a question, Zagalo-Melo stated that global engagement is providing students with cross-cultural competence without having to cross borders. Chair Dennis mentioned that the library has global databases and suggested that professors require at least one international source when assigning research. Chair Dennis referred to WMU's published "Global Learning Outcomes". Koretsky reported that about 18 classes were connected globally to pre- and post-pandemic, and five faculty members are prepared to teach. There are faculty jointly publishing soon on the topic.

Announcements

Conway and Whittles are cycling off IEC due to their retirements.

Chair Dennis requested IEC to visit Teams folder and comment on the annual report and the charges for 2024-25. Chair Dennis asked IEC to review the proposed list of speakers for the upcoming year. A future Qualtrics survey will allow IEC members to vote on speakers.

Metro-Roland announced the deadline for Global Engagement Award has been extended to 31 May.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Milostan, seconded by Halle, to adjourn the meeting at 5 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The International Education Council will meet next on 16 May 2024 at 3 p.m. via Webex via video conferencing.

Approval

Submitted by Joan Conway, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 16 May 2024.