

International Education Council

Minutes of 10 October 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 10 October 2024, via Webex video conferencing by Bradford Dennis, chair.

Members in Attendance: Eric Archer, Bradford Dennis, Dyanne Foskey, Lucius Hallett, Shannon McMorrow, Michelle Metro-Roland, Joseph Milostan, Anna Popkova, Reetha Raveendran, Yuanliang Sun, Abby Wang

Members Absent: John Cooper, Tarun Gupta, Anne Kairu, Tamba Momoh, Ying Zeng

Ex Officio in Attendance: Janet Hahn

Quorum

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

Agenda

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Archer, seconded by Wang, to approve the 19 September 2024 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Dennis report included a reflection on the International Festival. The festival had a lower attendance than last year. Chair Dennis announced the speakers/guests IEC will have at upcoming meetings. Student organization representatives were voted as potential speakers. Chair Dennis will present at the next Faculty Senate meeting on 7 November 2024.

Ex Officio Hahn reported that the Faculty Senate presented proposed changes to the bylaws. Two items are of interest to IEC. The first is in the bylaws, and it addresses the membership of IEC. It adds the Study Abroad Director, which already exists. The change was made official. Second, councils will no longer be expected to meet in May.

Reports of University Representatives

Archer reported that a committee was formed for the Associate Provost for Global Education Provost search. The new position title will be Associate Vice President for Global Education. There will be a meeting on 23 October, and charges from the provost will be presented.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

McMorrow reported that the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) committee meeting included aligning priorities with the CHHS strategic plan, advocating for a study abroad scholarship, which does not exist at the college level, and student engagement initiatives. Current ideas proposed are luncheons, hosting a global learning experience to collaborate with the college-level Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Antiracism committee (DEIA), and a showcase of projects.

No other college-level committees provided reports.

The Welcoming International Students committee had a meeting. IEC discussed the following:

1. The need to hear from students themselves about their needs;
2. Interactions with students on how to be more transformational rather than transactional;
3. Town Hall with students;
4. A dashboard to understand the ecosystem of international students.

Metro-Roland and Popkova expressed interest in joining the research committee. Metro-Roland suggested tabling the Fulbright committee for this year.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

There was a brief review of Charge #8 scope statement; no questions or comments were made.

Global Learning outcomes discussion follows:

1. If a second language is no longer required, the language proficiency outcome should not be included. Review and see if it aligns with what is actually offered now.
2. Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World ranking – how institutions align with U.S. sustainable development goals, which may be a subject to explore. Archer and Dennis volunteered to be on a working group assessing Global Learning Outcomes (GLO), if such a group is formed.

International Education Week (IEW) discussion follows:

1. Global Engagement is doing a panel.
2. No clarity on other activities planned;
3. Timing is not ideal, too close to Thanksgiving Day.
4. Discussion of possibly not doing anything during the official nationwide IEW;
5. Suggestion to plan something for next year;
6. Use charges to inform IEC plans and organize.

Speaker

Reetha Raveendran, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, presented the following:

1. Sindecuse, rights and responsibilities, essential needs, health, and wellness were discussed.
2. International students are university students and navigate not only the Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE) but goes everywhere.
3. To leverage Institutional Research (IR) to create a dashboard that would show who WMU students are. Who are recruited, where, and how? It would be helpful to meet with a representative from IR and explore a partnership opportunity.
4. Discussion on potential mechanisms at WMU to better support international students and to have a better and more nuanced understanding of the international student experience.
5. Winter housing has been resolved for this academic year. International students in need of winter housing are set, and they will not need to move.

Announcements

Metro-Roland reported that WMU has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar in Residence Award. The award is conditional, and more updates are coming.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Popkova, seconded by Wang, to adjourn the meeting at 4:29 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The International Education Council will meet next on 21 November 2024 at 3 p.m. via Webex conferencing.

Approval

Submitted by Anna Popkova, Secretary

Minutes approved on 21 November 2024.