
International Education Council
Minutes of 12 December 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 12 December 2024, via Webex video conferencing by Bradford Dennis, chair.

Members in Attendance: Bradford Dennis, Dyanne Foskey, Tarun Gupta, Anne Kairu, Elena Lisovskaya, Shannon McMorrow, Michelle Metro-Roland, Joseph Milostan, Tamba Momoh, Anna Popkova, Reetha Raveendran, Yuanliang Sun, Abby Wang

Members Absent: Eric Archer, John Cooper, Lucius Hallett, Ying Zeng

Ex Officio in Attendance: Janet Hahn

Guests: Witt Kieffer Consultants, Rob Springal and Roxana Woudstra; Tamba Momoh, Graduate Student Association; Litu Kinanti, President, International Student Council

Quorum

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

Agenda

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

Minutes

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

Reports of Officers

Chair Dennis reported the following:

1. Welcoming student survey group met on 5 December and is in the process of compiling questions. Wang and Metro-Roland have been assisting with themes and questions.
2. The Global Learning Outcomes work group met on 3 December, merging #5 and #6 outcomes. The group has created a document in Teams showing current student learning outcomes and where to modify, hoping to present updates at the January IEC meeting.

Ex Officio Hahn recommended IEC review the minutes from the 5 December Faculty Senate meeting and look for IEC-related discussion.

Reports of University Representatives

There was discussion regarding the search for an Associate Provost for Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE). Milostan mentioned housing options are available for winter break this year.

Momoh reported that the Graduate Student Association (GSA) collaborated with various offices on campus, such as the Health Promotions office and International Admissions. GSA has provided funding to Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) that include graduate students. There was a constitutional review to ensure RSO expands how to attract the attention of graduate students. The GSA president will have a compliance report in February 2025. The GSA executive board will be changing at the end of the year.

There was no representative from the Western Student Association to provide a report.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Speakers

Springall and Woudstra reported that Witt-Keiffer is in the initial phase of the search for associate provost for HIGE, gathering information. The search committee is chaired by the dean of Hayworth College of Business. Video conferencing interviews will be set after spring break and again in late March/early April to bring the candidates to WMU. The following questions were posed by Witt-Keiffer consultants:

- What are the international education opportunities for WMU?
- What will be the challenges for the next leader of HIGE?
- What personal qualities would make this person most successful? What's the best way to lead effectively within the team and across the university?

Representatives from GSA, WSA, and ISC

General discussion on the following topics:

US-based and international students to interact more

Global socials are mostly for local students, not so much for international students. There is a lack of interaction, even between channels of communication, and a lack of community. Discussed the importance of social networks and collaborations between academic and cultural RSOs. Popkova inquired about relationships among international students. The Asian cultural RSOs are together, and others have their own. But still more closely connected, based on friendships and friend groups.

How can faculty/administrators help

Help spread the word about events. Emphasize that college is more than just a degree. Faculty involvement helps and empowers, but context is also important. Some events would benefit from faculty and administrators attending.

Problems IEC might be able to help with

Transportation to the Parkview campus is an issue. Starting RSOs is difficult. Is there a way to channel that to Instagram? One issue is the confusion with the classes and finals happening during finals week. Better communication is needed regarding health insurance. Health representatives need to come down to the students' level.

Navigator system for international students

International students feel disconnected after international student orientation. Students do not take surveys unless they have very strong opinions. Possibly, offline communication is better. Kinanti asked if faculty members are aware of the struggles international students have, including Optional Practical Training (OPT), Curricular Practical Training (CPT), legal status, etc. There are huge gaps in services for administrators and students. This is a separate conversation to have with HIGE. Consider an ISC representative on the IEC.

Announcements

Gupta invited everyone to the Indian Student Association celebration at the Student Center tonight.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Gupta, seconded by McMorrow, to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The International Education Council will meet next on 16 January 2025 at 3 p.m. via Webex conferencing.

Approval

Submitted by Anna Popkova, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 16 January 2025.