

International Education Council

Minutes of 20 March 2025

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 20 March 2025, via Webex video conferencing by Bradford Dennis, chair.

Members in Attendance: Eric Archer, 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, Ying Zeng

Member Absent: John Cooper, Lucius Hallett

Ex Officio in Attendance: Janet Hahn

Quorum

A quorum was present with 16 members in attendance, of the nine needed to establish quorum.

Agenda

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Milostan, seconded by Sun, to approve the 20 February 2025 minutes as amended. The motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Chair Dennis gave an update on the student transportation issue based on his meeting with LuMarie Guth, chair of the Campus Planning and Finance Council. Chair Dennis reported on the meeting with the Kalamazoo Immigrant Solidarity Coalition and received the training on dealing with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). There will also be another training on campus on 28 March from 1 to 2:30 p.m. with the Native American Student Organization (NASO) at the Student Center.

Ex Officio Hahn reported that two Memoranda of Actions (MOA) were passed by the Faculty Senate. MOA 25/03 includes global learning as experience-based learning, and MOA 25/04 allows students to have the option of pass/fail for study abroad programs.

Reports of University Representatives

Zeng reported the following:

1. Travel with Haworth College of Business (HCOB) to Taiwan and Vietnam to visit potential partners.
2. Conference in Houston with international education administrators, lots of frustration and uncertainty.
3. Changes at Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE)
 - a. The Director of International Enrollment will be leaving WMU, a leadership change in that area.
 - b. Study abroad had seven faculty-led trips during spring break.
 - c. Global learning will have global engagement awards later this spring and the International Bazaar later this month.
 - d. Asian Initiatives is hosting a spring gala at Miller on 22 March.
 - e. The search committee for a new HIGE Vice President conducted online interviews and has three finalists visiting WMU the week of 24 March. All will give public presentations on campus.
4. Zeng is also on the search committee for the WMU President. Finalists will be visiting WMU the week of 24 March. The search for the WMU President is closed.

Metro-Roland reminded IEC about the call for the Global Engagement Award, asked to nominate people, and shared the call.

Momoh reported the following:

1. Graduate Student Association (GSA) constitutional review. There is a challenge of getting people involved and expanding membership in terms of having representatives from schools/departments. GSA posted the positions for the next Executive Board on Experience WMU.
2. GSA will be participating in the International Bazaar.
3. GSA will also have an end-of-the-year gala.

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

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Gupta reported that the College of Engineering (COE) committee met via email discussions. Electrical Engineering and Computer Science are collaborating with a Hungarian university on several projects involving students and faculty. The transportation problem – Metrolink should expand its service to include the engineering campus.

McMorrow reported that the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) committee has been focusing on three priorities: Advocating for CHHS scholarships, showcasing global work, and hosting a global learning experience. Last week, CHHS had a study abroad showcase, and the global engagement program was attended.

The Welcoming International Students Committee report included updates on the survey of international student experiences.

Research subcommittee update on reviving the fund for the support of international research and travel. IEC was involved in initiating the fund years ago. Metro-Roland gave a brief history of the funding. Discussion of how to proceed followed. Ex Officio Hahn suggested communicating with the Faculty Senate on this issue. The fund was established, but an issue affected the funding. Ex Officio Hahn shared the original document from 2005, MOA 05/02. Lisovskaya suggested contacting past grant/fund recipients if their involvement/support can help the initiative of getting the fund revived.

[MOTION] It was moved by McMorrow, seconded by Gupta, that IEC recommends using the faculty professional development funds provided for in the WMU AAUP contract 40.4 to be used for the purposes of reimplementing the International Education Faculty Development Fund, as per MOA 05/02. With three abstentions, the motion carried.

The Student Learning Outcomes Committee reported the progress on the MOA they have been working on. This MOA will be ready next year.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

1. A draft of the welcoming international students survey will be submitted to IEC for review and feedback. The group will submit for Human Subjects Institutional Review Board (HSIRB) approval over the summer. There was a discussion on how best to provide feedback.
2. Chair Dennis encouraged IEC members to reach out with nominations and/or self-nominations for 2025-26 IEC officer elections.
3. 2025-26 IEC possible speakers to consider for next year and include in a survey for IEC.
4. Charges for 2025-26 IEC.

Announcements

Asian Initiatives Spring Gala 22 March at Miller Auditorium.

McMorrow is hosting a community conversation with and about refugee women on 27 March, 3:30 to 6 p.m. at Swain Library at Sangren.

International Bazaar on 29 March at the Student Center.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Milostan, seconded by Wang, to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The International Education Council will meet next on 17 April 2025 at 3 p.m. via Webex conferencing.

Approval

Submitted by Anna Popkova, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 17 April 2025.