

International Education Council

Minutes of 17 April 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 17 April 2025, via Webex conferencing by Bradford Dennis, chair.

Members Present: Eric Archer, Bradford Dennis, Dyanne Foskey, Tarun Gupta, Anne Kairu, Elena Lisovskaya, Michelle Metro-Roland, Joseph Milostan, Anna Popkova, Dawn Smith (substitute for Shannon McMorrow), Yuanliang Sun, Abby Wang, Ying Zeng

Members Absent: Lucius Hallett, Tamba Momoh, Reetha Raveendran

Ex Officio: Janet Hahn

Quorum

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

Agenda

An amendment was made to add communication practices.

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Milostan, seconded by Wang, to approve the 20 March 2025 minutes. The motion carried.

Elections

Ex Officio Hahn called for nominations of International Education Council leadership.

Ex Officio Hahn Nominations for Chair: Dennis nominated – all voted, motion passed.

[MOTION] It was moved by Hahn, seconded by Wang, to elect Dennis as chair for 2025-26. The motion carried.

Dennis nominated Wang, all voted, motion passed.

[MOTION] It was moved by Dennis, seconded by Hahn, to elect Wang as vice chair for 2025-26. The motion carried.

Dennis nominated Popkova, all voted, motion passed

[MOTION] It was moved by Dennis, seconded by Hahn, to elect Popkova as secretary for 2025-26. The motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Chair Dennis reported on the need to reinvigorate the You are Welcome Here campaign.

Ex Officio Hahn did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

Zeng provided the Haenicke Institute for Global Education report, which included:

1. Update on the Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) records: those students who had SEVIS terminated received monitoring support from the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). This includes consistent monitoring of the SEVIS database, colleges and departments, and support to allow affected students to finish their degrees.
2. There will be 240 international students graduating this spring. There will be a reception on 25 April.

3. The annual ninth Chinese Spring Gala at Miller was on 22 March with 900 people in attendance.
4. Update on WMU partnership with the Confucius Institute. Chinese language and culture programming officially closed. HIGE is looking for private support to continue to offer popular Tai Chi classes on campus.
5. Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE) provided support to the International Bazaar.
6. Global Classroom programs are at the highest level of activity.

Due to the absence of Cooper and Momoh, there were no reports from the Western Student Association or the Graduate Student Association.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Gupta reported that the College of Engineering International Committee met in April to discuss Partnership with a Hungarian university in electrical engineering. One international student from that university plans to visit this summer.

No other college international committee reports were provided.

Chair Dennis reported on the welcoming international students committee, which included insights on improved communication with the university community regarding international students.

Chair Dennis reported on his meeting with the International Student Assembly:

1. Student comments confirmed an issue regarding transportation
2. The working group has distributed the draft survey for student feedback.
3. Update on activities for International Education Week.
4. Additional student concerns regarding “soft bullying” and fears.

Chair Dennis reported that the International Education Faculty Fund (IEFDF) committee met and determined that the fund was used for virtual study abroad but not for faculty travel. Additional discussion of this topic will be held next academic year.

Chair Dennis reported that the Student Learning Outcomes committee is making progress on the Memorandum of Action (MOA), which is expected to be completed next academic year.

New Business

It was determined that the International Education Council will meet virtually for 2025-26. 2025-26 International Education Council Speakers. The following top five speakers were identified as potential guests for the next academic year: Chris Cheatham, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Brian Childs, Senior Director of International Student and Scholar; Rosemary Max, Vice President for Global Education; and a panel of Deans. Council charges for the next academic year were discussed. The council members suggested editing charge number two: provide information and advocate for the importance of bringing global perspectives to teaching, scholarship, and research.

Announcements

Global Engagement Awards will be reviewed in the upcoming weeks. The awards will be presented at the fall convocation.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Milostan, seconded by Archer, to adjourn the meeting at 4:59 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval

Submitted by Anna Popkova, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 18 September 2025.