
**International Education Council
Minutes of 9 October 2025****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 9 October 2025, via Webex conferencing platform by Bradford Dennis, chair.

Members Present: Stephen Covell, Aishi Dhar Puja, Bradford Dennis, Dyanne Foskey, Tarun Gupta, Lucius Hallett, Vanessa Hills, Anne Kairu, Rosemary Max, Michelle Metro-Roland, Shannon McMorrow, Joseph Milostan, Anna Popkova, Nayab Tufail, Xiaodan Wang

Members Absent: Elena Lisovskaya, Yuanliang Sun, Tatge Wierda

Advisory Present: Reetha Raveendran

Ex Officio Present: Wanda Hadley

Guest: Bret Wagner, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Council

Quorum

A quorum was present with 16 members in attendance, of the 11 needed to establish a quorum.

Agenda

The agenda was amended to move Unfinished Business to the start of the meeting, followed by Reports of University Representatives, Guest Presentation, Reports of Officers, and ending with Reports of Committees.

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by McMorrow, seconded by Hallett, to approve the 18 September 2025 minutes as presented. The motion carried

Unfinished Business

Chair Dennis called for council members to volunteer to review the International Education Faculty Development Fund (IEFDF) proposals in the fall (after 1 November deadline) and spring (after 1 April deadline). IEC members Covell, Popkova, and McMorrow volunteered. Metro-Roland already serves on the committee.

Chair Dennis called for council members to volunteer for the Welcoming International Students subcommittee. IEC members Hills, Wang, Metro-Roland, Dennis, Popkova, and Tufail volunteered.

Chair Dennis called for council members to volunteer for the Student Learning Outcomes subcommittee. IEC members Hallett, Milostan, Dennis, and Gupta volunteered.

Reports of University Representatives

Max provided the Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE) report. Max discussed priorities, including a recruitment plan for the international students, planning for securing scholarship funds for international students. Other priorities include support for Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and faculty international research. Haenicke Institute for Global Education will match the \$40,000 International Education Faculty Development Funds with \$40 thousand from HIGE funding. Expansion of faculty-led study abroad experiences is another priority. Max provided details of her visit to the Dominican Republic, which was successful, as partners there want to participate in additional programs with WMU. Max reported a drop in student visas but noted that WMU experienced a lower than national average drop of 20% nationally, versus 7% at WMU. HIGE will continue to monitor the ongoing issue with H1B visas. A discussion was held regarding issues of health insurance for international students and transportation issues.

Chair Dennis called for volunteers to serve on the transportation issue workgroup. IEC members Tufail, Gupta, Metro-Roland, Puja, and Raveendran volunteered.

The Graduate Student Association did not provide a report

The International Student Council did not provide a report.

The Western Student Association did not provide a report.

Guest Presentation

Wagner explained a concern with study abroad credit hours and transfer credits. Discussion was held regarding what can be done to remove barriers connected to the issue preventing students from pursuing study abroad opportunities.

Reports of Officers

Chair Dennis reported progress on planning of international education week, provided the webpage and encouraged IEC members to promote the events across the University.

[MOTION] It was moved by Milostan, seconded by Hills, to add Brian Childs as a nonvoting Advisory Member to the International Education Council. The motion carried unanimously.

Ex Officio Hadley did not provide a report

Reports of Standing Committees

McMorrow reported that the HHS committee had their second meeting. The Dean attended and shared insights on study abroad limits. The committee voted on scholarships. Working groups were established being international student and faculty inclusion, global research showcase event, and study abroad showcase event.

Wang reported that the HCOB committee met. Wang was unable to attend. Faculty champions continue their efforts with short-term study abroad programs with an average size of 20 students. There are now four cohorts of the Guizhou University Finance and Economics (GUFE) program, which includes over 1,000 students.

Gupta reported that CEAS postponed its meeting.

Chair Dennis did not provide the Working Group reports.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Covell, seconded by Milostan, to adjourn the meeting at 4:48 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The International Education Council will meet next on 20 November 2025 via the Webex conferencing platform at 3 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Anna Popkova, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 20 November 2025.