
**International Education Council
Minutes of 11 December 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 11 December 2025, via Webex conferencing by Bradford Dennis, chair.

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

Members Absent: Lucius Hallett, Elena Lisovskaya, Anna Popkova, Yuanliang Sun, Tate Wierda, Ying Zeng

Advisors Present Brian Childs

Advisor Absent: Reetha Raveendran

Ex Officio: Wanda Hadley

Quorum

A quorum was present with 14 members in attendance of the 11 needed for quorum.

Agenda

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Max, seconded by Foskey, to approve the 20 November 2025 minutes with a minor change. The motion passed.

Reports of Officers

Chair Dennis presented with Milostan at the Faculty Senate meeting on 4 December on behalf of IEC. There were discussions regarding the \$750 fee. Chair Dennis briefly summarized what tasks the subcommittees perform. Details are in the Working Groups' reports.

Ex Officio Hadley did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

Max reported that recruiting is going forward. In the first quarter of 2026, there will be a draft of the recruiting plan. The plan will be distributed to different stakeholders for feedback. There is some ongoing work on short-term study abroad programs. Milostan added comments on the study abroad programs under development, as well as the efforts of getting faculty inputs to develop the resources and guidance. Metro-Roland shared news of the relaunch of IFDF. There are six applications for now, all of which can be funded.

No Graduate Student Association representative was present to provide a report.

Tufail reported that some international students raised concerns about their safety and hope the university can ensure students are safe. International students are hoping that there can be more scholarships available to international students and have convenient access to this information.

No Western Student Association representative was present to provide a report.

Reports of Councils/Committees Standing Committees

a. College-Level International Committees – Dennis

College of Arts and Sciences:

Covell reported that study abroad programs remain slow but are beginning to move forward again.

College of Health and Human Services:

McMorrow reported that the new Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of CHHS joined the college-level IEC meeting. A study abroad showcase is being planned for February, with the expectation of increased faculty participation and leadership in study abroad programs.

College of Engineering:

Gupta reported international student challenges, including unclear health insurance coverage, limited and unaffordable on-campus housing, and transportation gaps (limited MetroLink coverage; no weekend service). Gupta suggested reserving a portion of on-campus housing for international students. Metro-Roland noted that newly built on-campus housing is often unaffordable for international students. Childs stated that Britain Hadley is the only winter housing option; pricing discussions are ongoing. Gupta recommended more comprehensive housing information on the university website. Covell noted frequent updates would be required and suggested outsourcing. Chair Dennis shared the existing housing link discussed earlier in the Welcoming International Students subcommittee meeting.

University Library:

Chair Dennis reported on International Education Week activities, including both an in-person library tour and a virtual tour. The event was noted as an opportunity for broader college involvement. The committee discussed attendance challenges and strategies to increase international student participation, including improving early communication, providing clearer information about event purposes, and sharing announcements through group emails. Tufail noted that announcing events only two weeks in advance is insufficient and that earlier, more detailed communication may improve participation.

College of Education and Human Development:

Hills reported a plan for a celebration of international faculty in March and giving feedback to faculty developing new study abroad programs.

b. Working Groups Reports – Dennis reported the following:

Welcoming International Students Subcommittee: Discussed transportation and housing challenges faced by international students, as well as issues related to public safety and mental health.

Welcoming International Students Survey Subcommittee: Revised the survey based on committee feedback and plans to pilot test with a small group of students. Emphasized careful survey scheduling to avoid student survey fatigue.

Global Student Learning Outcomes Subcommittee: Converted and distributed the outcomes into an MOA. Discussed appropriate locations to link global learning outcomes, such as faculty development or anything that is related to curriculum.

Other Issues Discussed

Childs reported on a pumpkin painting event co-hosted with Public Safety in October, with approximately 60 participants.

Metro-Roland noted that students are often reluctant to file police reports due to uncertainty about potential consequences. Also discussed health insurance communication, emphasizing the need to clearly present key information through consolidated resources, seminars, and other informational efforts to help students better understand their coverage.

New Business

Chair Dennis reported that committee members' suggestions were incorporated, with the next step being completion of it as a MOA, addressing the committee's charge to facilitate global and international education at WMU.

[MOTION] It was moved by McMorrow, seconded by Covell to approve the MOA. The motion carried.

IEC members suggested adding responsible officers and explicitly referencing the Haenicke Institute for Global Education website in the MOA.

[MOTION] It was moved by Hills, seconded by Milostan, to approve the amended MOA. The motion carried.

Discussion on potential guests for next semester, including student representatives, associate deans, and Dr. Ramona Lewis.

Unfinished Business

None.

Announcements

- There will be an International Bazaar on 4 April. The invitation email will be sent out soon.
- Updates on an opportunity to study abroad in Japan.
- Fulbright reception will be on 6 February 2026, 5-7 p.m. Invitation email will be sent out soon.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Covell, seconded by McMorrow, to adjourn the meeting at 4:43 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The International Education Council will meet next on 15 January 2026 via Webex at 3 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Anna Popkova, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 15 January 2026.