

International Education Council  
**Minutes of 15 January 2026**

**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 15 January 2026, via Webex conferencing platform by Bradford Dennis, chair.

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

**Members Absent:** Lucius Hallett, Elena Lisovskaya, Yuanliang Sun, Tate Wierda

**Advisory Members Present:** Brian Childs, Reetha Raveendran

**Ex Officio:** Wanda Hadley

**Quorum**

A quorum was present with 15 members in attendance, of the 11 needed to establish quorum.

**Agenda**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by McMorrow, seconded by Hills, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

**Minutes**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Covell, seconded by Wang, to approve the 11 December 2025 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

**Reports of Officers**

Chair Dennis provided a brief update on the Student Learning Outcomes Memorandum of Action (MOA) and noted there will be further discussion later in the meeting.

Ex Officio Hadley did not provide a report, but did clarify the MOA submission procedures.

**Reports of University Representatives**

Childs shared an update on the most recent delay on visas by the U.S. Department of State, which relates to immigrant visas but does not include student visas. Gupta mentioned a drop in immigration to the U.S. Tufail asked what to tell students that are affected by expanded travel bans. Childs recommend referring students to the International Student and Scholar Services when they have legal questions.

Childs presented an update regarding the three-year international student recruitment plan. Gupta asked how funding has been committed, and from where, to which it was noted it is from Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

Dhar Puja did not provide a Graduate Student Association report, due to the meeting being scheduled for the following week.

Tufail reported that the International Student Council's International Bazaar will be held 4 April.

Due to Wierda's absence no report was provided by the Western Student Association

**Reports of Councils/Committees Standing Committee(s)**

College-Level International Committees Reports:

- Popkova stated that the College of Art and Sciences committee is scheduled to meet on 20 January 2026
- McMorrow reported that the College of Health and Human Services Committee met yesterday, including the new Dean for Academic Affairs. Study Abroad leadership attended the meeting to discuss improvement of CHHS study abroad programs.

- Gupta reported that the College of Engineering Committee met today and discussed MetroLink. This is a pilot project that will conclude at the end of this calendar year. However, it is not clear what will happen with the project beyond the end of academic year. Students are generally happy with MetroLink but also requested expansion of service to areas it doesn't currently cover.

Working Groups Reports:

- Chair Dennis stated that the Welcoming International Students Subcommittee discussed housing challenges faced by international students. The committee invited Barry Olson to the next meeting to offer solutions that might be available to address the challenges identified.
- Chair Dennis reported that the Global Student Learning Outcomes Subcommittee did not meet because the MOA has been submitted to the Faculty Senate Executive Board. The committee will reconvene and review the purpose and possibly renaming Student Learning Outcomes to Student Learning Outcomes Guide to keep it intentionally broad.

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**New Business**

Chair Dennis distributed a survey email to the council members asking for input to assessment of the effectiveness of the council's practices, no later than 30 January.

**Announcements**

Tufail announced the WSA International Bazaar that will be held on 4 April 2026.

Metro-Roland stated that an invitation has been distributed for the Fulbright reception on 6 February 2026, from 5 to 7p.m.

**Adjournment**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Gupta, seconded by Milostan, to adjourn the meeting at 4:07 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The International Education Council will meet next on 19 February 2026 via Webex conferencing platform at 3 p.m.

**Approval**

Submitted by Anna Popkova, Secretary

Minutes were approved on 26 February 2026.