
International Education Council

Minutes of 16 September 2021

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 16 September 2021, in Sangren 4550 and via Webex video conferencing by D. Eric Archer, chair.

Members in Attendance: D. Eric Archer, Griffin Baginski, Ellen Breakfield-Glick, Bradford Dennis, David Huffman, Shannon McMorrow, Michelle Metro-Roland, Ann Miles, Jun-Seok Oh, Anna Popkova, Xiaodan Wang, Jim Whittles, Hanny Wuysang, Paulo Zagalo-Melo

Members Absent: Dyanne Foskey

Ex Officio in Attendance: Matthew Mingus

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Dennis, seconded by McMorrow, to accept the 16 September 2021 agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Baginski, seconded by Miles, to approve the minutes of 20 May 2021 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Faculty Senate President Kritzman delivered the 2021-22 council charges.

Chair Archer reported on recent work by WMU and the Kalamazoo community concerning incoming Afghan refugees to the Kalamazoo area. Approximately 130 refugees will be resettled in Kalamazoo. Bethany Christian Services is distributing a newsletter concerning Afghan resettlement, and several webinar events are planned for the fall. Metro-Roland, when asked by Chair Archer, reported that WMU has over 20 Afghan alumni and students who have reached out. Six of the seven alumni still in Afghanistan would like to leave. The University has provided generous support to admit and fund five alumni to doctoral programs at WMU, but none of these students have arrived in Kalamazoo yet. Zagalo-Melo also mentioned that the U.S. Department of State is waiving interviews for the visa application process due to lack of access to U.S. consulates.

Ex Officio Mingus reminded council members of the 21 September [lecture on Moral Courage by Irshad Manji at 2 p.m.](#) Mingus also reported that he has been named as a member of the University Steering Committee for the new strategic plan, for which he will provide updates to the council with respect to global engagement in WMU's updated strategic plan.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

None.

Reports of University Representatives

Zagalo-Melo reported that former Director of Study Abroad and Faculty Enrichment Lee Penyak retired in August, and currently there is a national search in progress for the position. The Swain Education Library will have an international education student-oriented space, which will include programming and staff from the Haenicke Institute for Global Education. It will have a global engagement programming specialist, a study abroad specialist, and other important student engagement elements. The "State of

Global Engagement Address” by Zagalo-Melo will be held on 28 October at 2:30 p.m. Some study abroad programs are running for fall 2021, but it will take time to reach the pre-COVID numbers. International enrollment has increased to 2,100 students, which is a 5% increase over last year.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

McMorrow stated that the College of Health and Human Services' international committee recently discussed Afghan refugees and social work needs. The committee wants to address the low number of international students in CHHS and to support currently enrolled international students by offering an outdoor event this year.

Chair Archer asked for council members' feedback on the 2021-2022 council charges. Miles suggested ensuring global engagement has a central role in the WMU strategic plan. Popkova suggested an alignment of the goals of internationalization with the goals of racial justice. Metro-Roland suggested increasing international scholars on campus. WMU needs to ensure the correct infrastructure to allow an increase, so that international scholars have access to campus resources. Miles also raised concerns regarding the isolation of international students and discrimination. It was suggested that domestic students need additional help to understand the struggles international students face, so they can be supportive of international students. Chair Archer stated that he intends to meet with Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Candy McCorkle regarding this issue and will also invite McCorkle to attend a future IEC meeting. Chair Archer summarized the following:

1. Charge 1: is an ongoing task
2. Charge 2: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bott will be invited to an IEC meeting for this discussion
3. Charge 3: IEC needs to engage with the college international committees
4. Charges 4-5: are similar in scope
5. Charge 6: coordination is needed with both the Graduate Studies Council and Undergraduate Studies Council.
 - i. It was suggested to tag courses that contain global content.

Zagalo-Melo reported that International Education Week will be different this year and that it is a registered student organization event. The community event is sponsored by WMU Office of Government Affairs and the college-level international committees. during the pandemic, WMU had 85 international scholars on campus. Chair Archer added the need to ensure the visiting scholar program is diverse across disciplines.

Chair Archer asked council members for suggestions of guests for the 2021-22 academic year. Suggestions included:

1. Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation Steven Carr
2. Kalamazoo community representative to discuss refugee efforts
3. WMU representative to highlight barriers international visitors face
4. International scholar(s)

Zagalo-Melo discussed the American Council on Education (ACE) Internationalization Lab 2.0. The ACE Internationalization Lab has taken place annually for over 15 years, with 150 universities having taken part. It is similar to an accreditation process for internationalization efforts but does not lead to formal accreditation. ACE created Lab 2.0 for those universities that had gone through the first process. HIGE contacted ACE last year regarding the creation of the Lab 2.0 process, which triggered their interest in starting the first Lab 2.0 cohort this year. WMU is now in the first Lab 2.0 cohort along with three other universities, which will participate in the process during the 2021-22 academic year. It will include a self-study, several meetings, and campus visits by ACE staff. There will be a small leadership team that includes the IEC chair, HIGE staff, and other WMU faculty and administrators. Zagalo-Melo suggested adding a monthly IEC agenda item for Lab 2.0. He also

stated that WMU will benefit from the process according to how much effort is put in. ACE will work with the leadership team and University administration to help promote continued internationalization strategies at WMU. There is a desire to have council members involved in the process.

Announcements

McMorrow discussed her work on a recent photovoice research project. It captures experiences of national and international women of color, with 14 participants joining the project in spring 2021. Focus groups met to discuss photos of their experiences and an accompanying video. This work will be available on the second floor of CHHS in September. The purpose is advocacy for women of color.

Metro-Roland stated that she was contacted by WMU's racial justice advisory committee. The committee is looking at barriers for international students. She shared barriers such as housing, advising, mental health, and health services.

Adjournment

[MOTION] Motion to adjourn by Whittles, seconded by Wuysang, to adjourn the meeting at 5 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The International Education Council meets next on 14 October via Webex video conferencing.

Approval

Submitted by David Huffman, Secretary

Minutes approved on 14 October 2021.