
International Education Council

Minutes of 14 October 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 14 October 2021, virtually 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 McMorro, 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 Wang, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Whittles, seconded by Mingus, to approve the minutes of 16 September 2021 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Archer reported that internationalization is a key part of the new University strategic planning. The American Council on Education Lab 2.0 is underway and will be discussed later in the meeting. Future International Education Council guests will be discussed later in the meeting, but those already selected are as follows:

1. November – Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bott
2. December – Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Candy McCorkle

Ex Officio Mingus reported that internationalization is one of the seven University strategic planning workgroups. He asked the council if Board of Trustee chair Lynn Chen-Zang should be invited to attend a future IEC meeting, to which the council agreed.

Reports of University Representatives

Zagalo-Melo provided the Haenicke Institute for Global Education report. He stated that an application was submitted for Senator Paul Simon NAFSA Spotlight Award focusing on WMU's global engagement programs. WMU was a finalist last year but did not receive the award. WMU is submitting data for ranking by Times Higher Education (THE), an innovative higher education publication that ranks institutions based on impact related to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The data is being provided for 2022 impact rankings. In 2021, only one Michigan university was ranked. Further, only one U.S. university appears in the top 10 and only two in the top 20 rankings. The advantage of this ranking system is that the current generation of students connects more strongly with rankings associated with THE (sustainability, social justice, reducing inequalities, etc.). Ricardo Diniz has been invited to give a Global Engagement Speaker Series presentation on 3 November 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in Brown Hall, room 3025. He is a motivational speaker and an accomplished sailor, touted as "one of the most brilliant motivational speakers in Europe". Charles Zhang, local investor, philanthropist, WMU graduate, and spouse of Board of Trustees Chair Lynn Chen-Zhang, will finish out the Global Engagement Speaker Series later in November by discussing global engagement.

Archer asked about the importance of the QS World University Rankings, another international ranking system for universities. Zagalo-Melo affirmed that WMU is on the QS ranking. HIGE solicits data from the Office of Institutional Research to actively pursue ways to increase scoring in various rankings. Archer also asked about efforts with Afghan refugees, to which Metro-Roland responded that she is working with Laura Osborne with WMU International Campus Ministries on this humanitarian crisis. Individuals are struggling to get visa appointments. Fred Upton's office is in contact with Lee Ryder of HIGE.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Zagalo-Melo provided an update on the American Council on Education International Lab 2.0. The first task was to develop the team and working groups, and to set goals. A concern is to avoid inefficiency or replication. Considering the strategic planning process, there is a need to connect the internationalization working group with the ACE 2.0 Lab. This would provide a unique situation to take advantage of shared purposes. Zagalo-Melo has contacted Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bott to address the issue. Zagalo-Melo has been asked to chair the internationalization workgroup. IEC members were encouraged to participate. The workgroup will be comprised of 20 to 30 individuals. Mingus suggested including someone from the WMU Evaluation Center on the workgroup. Miles questioned if students are on the workgroups. Mingus stated that the Western Student Association has a representative on the University Strategic Planning Steering Committee and that the Graduate Student Association has yet to name a representative. Zagalo-Melo said the timeline for ACE Lab 2.0 will be shared. The next step is to define Lab 2.0 goals. WMU has a unique perspective because of development since participation in the first ACE Lab. The deadline for the deliverable is April 2022, which ends with a visit from peer reviewers from other institutions. Archer stated that ACE Lab 2.0 is an in-depth conversation with peer institutions, thinking about advanced planning for internationalization. WMU is already doing much of what other institutions are just now starting.

Zagalo-Melo asked for suggestions for ACE Lab 2.0 to focus on. He stated that WMU wants to provide graduates a level of global competence. WMU is the first university to have an international twinning program and the first university to have a presidential initiative on internationalization. In the last 15 years, the spotlight has moved away from student mobility to global learning. The defining moment of research on global learning occurred in 2010, and various high-impact practices were determined. When asked what the expectation is for ACE Lab 2.0, Metro-Roland stated there were some misunderstandings during the ACE Lab 1.0 peer review process. Still, WMU is now better prepared as an institution to address the institutional framework. Zagalo-Melo reminded the council that global engagement is a model and referred to the ACE website. Miles asked for clarification about how internationalization is different from global learning. Zagalo-Melo stated they are the same. Curriculum and the classroom are the last frontiers of internationalization.

Chair Archer asked council members to report on the work of any of the individual college international committees on which they serve. McMorro stated Health and Human Services is continuing to look at ways to help Afghan refugee resettlement. Wang shared that Business will have three or four study abroad programs next summer. Other college committees have not met yet.

Unfinished Business

Chair Archer summarized the IEC 2021-22 charges. Archer and McMorro previously met and identified focus items as follows:

1. Charge 1: Participate in collaboration with the Haenicke Institute for Global Education in the ACE Internationalization Lab 2.0.
 - a. The council has strength in this area
2. Charge 3: Increase contact and coordination with college-level international committees.
 - a. Archer and McMorro will lead this charge
3. Charge 6: Collaborate with the Graduate Studies Council and the Undergraduate Studies Council to provide recommendations on how to best support faculty in the area of global learning (e.g., global classrooms, virtual study abroad, internationalized curriculum). Conclude the initiative by producing a report to the Executive Board or a Memorandum of Action
 - a. It had been suggested that a tag be developed to identify courses containing global

content

- b. An ad hoc committee should be established to address this charge
4. Charge 9: Encourage utilization of external campus resources and innovation programs (IIE Scholar in Residence Program, IIE Scholar Rescue Fund, reciprocal faculty exchanges with international partners) to increase the number of international scholars on WMU's campus.
 - a. An ad hoc committee should be established to address this charge

New Business

Chair Archer led a discussion of future meeting guests. Suggestions included:

1. An ACE representative to address global learning
2. Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation Steve Carr
3. Another suggestion was to bring Office of Faculty Development director Gwen Tarbox.
4. The two new associate VPs in student affairs, Reetha Raveendran and Barry Olson.
 - a. Raveendran has extensive international experience in Singapore. Her vision intersects with ours.

Chair Archer stated that Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jennifer Bott will attend the November IEC meeting. Topics for discussion were suggested as follows:

1. International transfer students, especially 3+1 programs, are not eligible for honors recognition at graduation. Students are lost, especially from the Dominican Republic, because of this. There is fierce competition with other universities. The best students come to WMU, but they are denied honors recognition.
2. Present information on global learning.
3. Asks if global learning can be counted toward faculty promotion just as much as research.
 - a. Zagalo-Melo stated that college and department tenure and promotion committees set the criteria.
4. Potential topics for academic forums.

Chair Archer postponed the Boston College CIHE Summer Professional Development review to the next meeting.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Whittles, seconded by Zagalo-Melo, to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The International Education Council meets next on 9 December via Webex video conferencing.

Approval

Submitted by David Huffman, Secretary

Minutes approved on 18 November 2021.