
International Education Council

Minutes of 21 April 2022

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate International Education Council was called to order at 3:02 p.m. on 21 April 2022, virtually via Webex video conferencing by D. Eric Archer, chair.

Members in Attendance: D. Eric Archer, Bradford Dennis, David Huffman, Shannon McMorrow, Michelle Metro-Roland, Anna Popkova, Xiaodan (Abby) Wang, Jim Whittles, Hanny Wuysang, Paulo Zagalo-Melo

Members Absent: Griffin Baginski, Ellen Breakfield-Glick, Joan Conway, Ann Miles, Jun-Seok Oh

Ex Officio in Attendance: Matthew Mingus

Guests: Steve Carr, Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation; Chuck Bruce, Family and Consumer Sciences

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Agenda

The new business item was moved ahead of officer reports.

[MOTION] It was moved by Whittles, seconded by Dennis, to accept the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Election of Officers

[MOTION] It was moved by Zagalo-Melo, seconded by Wang, to elect Huffman as chair. The motion carried unanimously.

[MOTION] It was moved by Dennis, seconded by McMorrow, to elect Whittles as vice chair. The motion carried unanimously.

[MOTION] It was moved by Whittles, seconded by McMorrow, to elect Dennis as secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Wang, seconded by Dennis, to approve the minutes of 17 March 2022 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation Steve Carr shared his background. Chair Archer asked about efforts in internationalization. Carr stated that many of the initiatives were one-time events, and \$200,000 was invested into the colleges for a variety of purposes, including performance, release time, materials for painting, summer workshops, equipment, and student fellowships for the Honors College. With these funds, the graduate college was able to support four graduate students for summer research. There is an effort being made to increase WMUs invest into research. Currently, there is \$350,000 invested annually into research in one-time funding. One issue with internationalization is export control and regulations that are in place to protect researchers.

Chair Archer asked if travel authorization is linked to export control? Carr confirmed that it is. Metro-Roland asked if global classrooms and group work export control? Carr noted that it is not typical. Huffman asked about the sources of funding for ORI. Carr stated it is from indirect grant costs. The funds are meant to help with startup and equipment matching funds. FRACAA is administered by ORI, and it is not part of the ORI budget. Chair Archer asked what the major challenges are going forward. Carr stated that they are technology and commercialization. It costs a lot for patents and attorney fees. U.S. patents have fees in years one, four, and seven. International patents are every year and are very expensive. Carr stated that perhaps some of this money could be invested in faculty instead. The budget for ORI is thin, and there are not enough staff to complete the work. Some staff vacancies have been hard to replace, due to competition with the private sector.

Carr asked about research efforts related to IEC. Chair Archer mentioned that Metro-Roland handles the Fulbright portfolios, visiting scholars and students, and Fulbright foreign language teaching assistants. Archer emphasized IEC's roles and charges. Carr stated that he met with Zagalo-Melo about an investment in globalization majors. Zagalo-Melo commented that IEC wants to improve communication channels and application platforms for study abroad and other common interests. It was noted that housing and transportation for international scholars is an issue. WMU needs to ensure they have a good experience. The Vice President for Student Affairs is looking into this issue. Dennis commented that without a BroncoID card, scholars cannot access the library. BroncoID cards need to be issued to visiting scholars.

Reports of Officers

Chair Archer did not provide a report.

Ex Officio Mingus reported on the newly elected IEC members for 2022-23 and member substitutes.

Reports of University Representatives

Zagalo-Melo provided the Haenicke Institute for Global Education report. The newly appointed Vice President for Research and Innovation, Dr. Remzi Seker, has a strong international background. HIGE is developing additional global strategies to implement a semester abroad in the Dominican Republic and Portugal, focusing on WMU Essential Studies courses. It is intended to have enough credits to provide a full semester's work for first- or second-year students, as well as a summer study abroad at the same locations, with a target date of fall 2023 for all the programs. This will increase our study abroad numbers. International student applications are up 39%. Masters level international applications are up by 70%.

There are challenges with staffing at HIGE. The staff compensation system and salary ranges are not competitive. There were five staff positions for international admissions, and now there are only two. HIGE is moving study abroad specialists to assist, but study abroad is becoming busier. HIGE currently has nine staff positions vacant.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Zagalo-Melo provided the American Council on Education Internationalization Lab 2.0 and strategic planning reports. The ACE Lab 2.0 cohort meeting covered structure and deliverables. It is connected tightly with the University Strategic Planning process. A final version is required for the focus group report. WMU is in a good position to have a strong strategic plan for internationalization. Then the ACE Internationalization team met to learn how to structure the report. It will need to narrow the focus down to five objectives for internationalization. Highlights of the strategic plan will be shared with the ACE Lab 2.0 representatives.

McMorrow's working group revisited some of the findings from the Boston College Internationalization of the Curriculum course held last summer, which four IEC members attended. One idea was to have a faculty fellow and learning communities. Internal funding from the Office of Faculty Development (OFD) could help develop learning communities. Wang suggested external funding to support internationalization of curriculum. Popkova wants IEC to set goals and objectives. Time is needed to set up such items and to promote it among faculty. McMorrow suggests building on current activities with OFD directions, such as workshops on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business, Cont.

Metro-Roland discussed whether the Global Engagement Award should extend to emeriti. The award committee was against opening the award to emeriti. The current recommendation is to retain the current criteria for the award. Chair Archer would like to have a more formal decision. Discussion was held.

[MOTION] It was moved by Whittles, seconded by McMorrow, to postpone further discussion of the Global Engagement Award criteria. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Archer expressed that he needs more time to develop the international student transfer honors credit Memorandum of Action. Archer will draft the MOA over the summer and provide it to IEC in the fall. Whittles offered to help facilitate the process with other institutions.

Announcements

Metro-Roland announced that the Global Engagement Award for 2022 was given to Greg Veeck.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by McMorrow, seconded by Popkova, to adjourn the meeting at 5 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The International Education Council meets next on 19 May 2022 via Webex video conferencing.

Approval

Submitted by David Huffman, Secretary

Minutes approved on 19 May 2022.