INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Minutes of 17 September 2026

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 17 September 2026, via Webex, by Anna Popkova, chair.

Members Present: Bradford Dennis, Dyanne Foskey, Tarun Gupta, Vanessa Hills, Anne Kairu, Elena Lisovskaya, Rosemary Max, Shannon McMorrow, Michelle Metro-Rowland, Joseph Milostan, Tamba Momoh, Anna Popkova, Yuanliang Sun, Abby Wang
Members Absent: Stephen Covell, Ellena Ransom
Advisory Members Absent: Amber Li, Reetha Raveendran,
Ex Officio: Wanda Hadley

Quorum

A quorum was present with 11 members in attendance, of the 10 needed to establish a quorum.

Agenda

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Hadley, seconded by Dennis, to approve the 3 September 2026 minutes as distributed. The motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Chair Popkova did not provide a report.

Ex-Officio Hadley encouraged International Education Council (IEC) members to attend upcoming meetings regarding the ongoing Administrative Redesign.

Reports of University Representatives

Max provided the Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE) report included:

- Introduction of two new staff members, Amber Li, Senior Director of International Student and Scholar Services, and Daing Nasir, Director of International Recruiting and Admissions.
- The three-year international student recruiting plan and a recent visit to the WMU campus by global recruiting partners to strengthen in-country recruiting networks. In mid-October, HIGE will host a virtual immigration status update via Microsoft Teams to provide information on the latest immigration policies and guidelines. The meeting invitation will be sent to faculty and staff approximately two weeks in advance.
- The international student health insurance plan has been updated. The provider remains the same, with improved coverage and a 5% cost increase. International students' spring semester bills will include coverage for both the spring and summer semesters. Students may waive the summer insurance expense if they do not plan to remain in the United States during the summer.
- Milostan reported that Study Abroad is updating its training and policies for faculty leading study abroad programs. The Study Abroad website has also been updated. To celebrate WMU's 30th anniversary of its relationship with Christ University in Bangalore, India, HIGE is planning a spring break study abroad program to India and will subsidize program fees and airfare for participating students.
- Metro-Roland expressed a willingness to discuss faculty funding and global engagement opportunities with colleges, departments, and other units.

Gupta asked about the process for determining credit equivalencies. Max confirmed that this is a HIGE process and will report back to Gupta with additional details. Discussion was held regarding the export control process for international faculty collaborations.

Tamba provided the Graduate Student Association (GSA) report, which has become increasingly active, with greater outreach to graduate students over the summer. More than 100 students attended a GSA event with their families earlier this month. IEC will continue to increase communication regarding GSA activities and promote additional activities on campus.

Due to Ransom's absence, no Western Student Association report was provided.

Reports of Councils/Standing Committees

College-Level International Committees

- Gupta reported that the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences meets on the second Thursday of each month. It discussed actions taken between admission and arrival for international graduate students. Max reported on new plans for yield messaging for international graduate and undergraduate students to further address this period. There are also continued discussions regarding housing for international students.
- Chair Popkova reported that the College of Arts and Sciences will hold its first meeting soon to establish meeting dates for the academic year

The Welcoming International Students Working Group focused on temporary housing options for students prior to the start of the fall semester. The working group met with Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Olson. It was proposed that HIGE purchase three spaces to be used as needed; however, it was not feasible. Olson agreed to accommodate flexible early move-in dates for international students when possible.

The Global Learning Outcomes Working Group will continue working to make the Global Learning Outcomes Guide more accessible and available across campus.

Curriculum Manager DeChano-Cook and Director of Faculty Development Lewis agreed to share or host links to provide greater access to the guide. The working group will continue discussion regarding a list of courses with international components, and the use of the Global Learning Outcomes Guide in curriculum development.

Review of Charges

Chair Popkova led discussion of potential amendments to the 2026–27 IEC charges. It was noted that the HIGE recruitment plan is three years rather than the stated five years. The language for Charge #3a was updated by IEC last year and should be reflected in this year's charges. Additionally, a charge related to working with undergraduate and graduate student councils was removed. To address these updates, Ex Officio Hadley suggested that Chair Popkova contact Faculty Senate Administrator Brodasky.

New Business

Chair Popkova addressed the continuation of existing working groups and adding new members. The Welcoming International Students Working Group will continue and includes Chair Popkova, Dennis, Metro-Roland, Hills, Sun, and Li. The Global Learning Outcomes Working Group will continue and includes Milostan, Dennis, and Gupta. This working group will shift its focus from creating the Global Learning Outcomes Guide to increasing the visibility and accessibility of the existing guide through broader accessibility. Additionally, the working group will consider renaming itself. The Grant Application Review Working Group will continue and includes Metro-Roland, Vice Chair McMorrow, Chair Popkova, and Covell. The working group will assess the availability of financial awards through HIGE. Chair Popkova encouraged all IEC members to consider joining one of the working groups.

It was suggested that Li speak regarding their role at HIGE at the October meeting.

Announcements

Chair Popkova stated that “You are Welcome Here” marketing campaign shirts are available for purchase through HIGE. Proceeds will support the International Student Emergency Fund.

Dennis shared that International Education Week will be 9 to 13 November 2026.

Adjournment

Chair Popkova adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m. The International Education Council will meet next on 15 October via Webex at 3 p.m.

Approval

Submitted by Vanessa Hills, Secretary.
Minutes were approved on 15 October 2026.