

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Thursday, 16 March 2017, 3 p.m.
Room 4550 Sangren Hall

Members present: Eric Archer, Jane Blyth, Maira Bundza, Alexander Cannon, Robert Dlouhy, Mary Lagerwey, Michelle Metro-Roland, Ann Miles, Jun-Seok Oh, Natalio Ohanna, Yogesh Suryawanshi

Members absent: Stephen Covell, Moritz Cherubin, Willem Homan, Michael Millar, Zahir Quareshi (for Stephen Newell), Bret Wagner

Guests: Sherine Obare, Associate Vice President for Research; Nathan Tabor, Visiting Assistant Professor of History and Project Director, Southwest Michigan Educational Initiative on the East Indian Ocean

Procedural Items

Acceptance of the Agenda

Dlouhy moved to accept the March agenda, seconded by Oh. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Ohanna moved to approve minutes from 16 February 2017, seconded by Dlouhy. Motion carried.

Discussion/Action Items

International Research – Associate Vice President Obare

Council members Lagerwey and Oh presented updates on current efforts of IEC to support international research at WMU (survey of faculty concerning engagement in international research and collaboration). Ohanna discussed additional items related to ongoing international collaborations (e.g., visiting faculty, international speakers, etc.).

Obare shared her past experiences with international collaborations in her own research and her current efforts to support international research at WMU. She highlighted development of the upcoming strategic plan for the Office of the Vice President for Research, which includes supporting global research operations. Obare also discussed additional challenges her office has faced in managing and promoting faculty collaborations with international partners. Regarding international funding resources, Obare explained potential upcoming challenges related to the 2018 federal budget blueprint and its impact on future international research resources and collaborations. Finally, Obare discussed goals related to increasing funding resources (private sector) and efforts in supporting faculty who are searching for funding.

Usfil Grant – Cannon and Tabor

Cannon and Tabor presented information related to Usfil grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The focus is on Vietnamese community in Grand Rapids and South Asian community in the Kalamazoo area. The grant will allow offering of language programs through WMU Extended University Programs unit. In Grand Rapids, courses will be focused on the Vietnamese language and on Hindi/Urdu in Kalamazoo. Additionally, content courses will be added to WMU's Department of History related to South Asian studies as well as content courses in the School of Music. Competitive application process for eight faculty members to work with the grant for professional development and curricular opportunities in Southeast and South Asia will be disseminated in the future.

Chair's Report – Miles

Miles reported that the search for the associate provost for global engagement is continuing.

Haenicke Institute for Global Education Report – Blyth

Blyth reported a number of items regarding the Haenicke Institute including:

- Reminded the council about recently opened Global Lounge in the Berhard Center basement
- HIGE provides tax services support for international students and scholars
- Welcome to Western webpage now includes information on global events and resources for supporting global initiatives. A town hall event was held on 22 February to discuss issues impacting international education at WMU. President John Dunn hosted students from seven countries highlighted in the federal government's most recent executive order.
- Asian forum will be held on 14 April 2017 in Sangren Hall.
- WMU recently ranked in Top 10 of Fulbright Scholar producers.
- Recruiters from HIGE continue to visit various countries. Expect changes to graduate tuition rates (international and out-of-state) in April 2017.

Other

Bundza mentioned that she is working with others to submit a grant to Ministry of Culture in Latvia to support Latvian arts events at WMU.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
D. Eric Archer
IEC Secretary