

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE**

**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL  
Minutes of Thursday, 6 December 2018, 3 p.m.  
Room 4550 Sangren Hall**

**Members present:** D. Eric Archer, Pnina Ari-Gur (for Jun-Seok Oh), Steve Covell, Robert Dlouhy, Igor Fedotov, Janet Hahn, David Huffman, Lei Ming (for Chansheng He), Michelle Metro-Roland, Rebecca Natale, Maria Perez-Stable, Paulo Zagalo-Melo

**Members absent:** Kalani Gates, Duke Leingpibul (for Zahir Quraeshi), Jim Whittles

**Guest:** Yi Wu, Chinese Director for WMU Confucius Institute

**Procedural Items**

*Acceptance of the Agenda*

Dlouhy moved to accept the 6 December 2018 agenda; Perez-Stable seconded. Motion carried.

*Approval of the Minutes*

Natale moved to approve minutes from the 15 November 2018 meeting; McMorrow seconded. Motion carried.

**Discussion Items**

*Working Group Updates*

Global Classrooms – Metro-Roland reported that the Global Classrooms grant process was moving forward. January will be when it is advertised – direct emails to faculty, chairs and deans; postcards to faculty mail; globally engaged emails. It was asked about feedback on how to reach out to faculty. Natale asked where interested faculty can find information. A website will be set up through the Haenicke Institute for Global Education. There will be five grants of \$2000. Covell asked about the potential to advertise to college international committees. A question was asked about the selection committee – Metro-Roland stated it would be a committee of faculty to decide on proposals.

International Student Inclusion – McMorrow reported the committee met today and clarified membership (Dlouhy, McMorrow, Metro-Roland, and Huffman). Previous member Butterfield was the lead of the committee; McMorrow is taking over the lead. The committee would like to work with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to pursue the idea of learning committees around inclusive classrooms for international students. The committee is connecting with college level international committees (as well as Diversity & Inclusion committees). Natale stated that she would like to join the group.

International Research – Covell discussed confusion around membership of the current committee. Minutes from last year provided some details on who was heading up work on international research initiatives; however, he could find no

list of membership. Covell then stated that because of this, the IEC needs to discuss the representation and the charges of this working group. Huffman, Natale, and Ari-Gur volunteered to constitute this working group. Covell also would like members Leingpibul and Gates to serve on this working group, as well.

Covell also discussed that one remaining charge that has not been addressed so far is the WMU Signature Program. He believes this may be something that the entire council looks at first and then perhaps creates a working group that works with Signature, or perhaps it should be under the purview of an existing working group. Covell stated that he would invite the Signature Director to speak with the council in the spring semester.

*International Education Faculty Development Fund Report – Metro-Roland*  
Metro-Roland provided data on IEFDF applications and awards for the 2017-18 academic year. Ari-Gur asked about the process for denied applications and if applicants receive feedback if their proposals are denied. Metro-Roland stated there is some feedback provided to applicants who are denied, but typically applications are denied on the basis of technical issues (not fully following applications guidelines, incomplete applications, etc.). In addition, some applications are denied because the details of the proposal are ambiguous (application does not describe details of the proposed activity). Covell asked if the committee weighed various activities in its selection of proposals (e.g., research/ data collection vs. presentation of research at a conference, etc.). Metro-Roland stated that the committee does consider this, but they are discussing how to actually quantify differential prioritization of activities through a rubric or other selection criteria. Metro-Roland also discussed the committee's idea to prioritize new applications.

Covell also stated that there has been some interest in support of chairs/ administrators to engage in internationalization. Zagalo-Melo said he thought that suggestion was a good idea and he shared his interest in expanding funding for IEFDF in order to support more internationalization efforts. Covell restated his support for prioritizing new applications if funding is supported. Zagalo-Melo agreed and said he could see prioritization to include new applications/new faculty, research over conferences, etc. Zagalo-Melo also mentioned including the Office of the Vice President for Research into future plans to support IEFDF and other internationalization efforts. Metro-Roland mentioned that another idea to improve IEFDF applications would be to include a question for repeat applications that asks about outcomes from previous awards. Hahn asked about the difference in the amount of awards from fall to spring (lower awards tended to be awarded in the spring). Metro-Roland explained that the amount of awards depends on the amount asked for in the application budget; the remaining amount of award money is available as applications are reviewed and received, etc. Hahn suggested that instead of having to wait one year between awards, perhaps the wait should be two years, and to include outcomes from previous awards for those receiving multiple awards over the years. Also, Metro-Roland said the committee may look at having applicants discuss how their IEFDF awarded projects will impact larger internationalization efforts for WMU as well as the importance of their individual activity. Covell also suggested looking at having individual colleges

contribute money to support the IEFDF fund in order to increase the reach of internationalization funding.

### Informational Items

*Haenicke Institute for Global Education Report – Zagalo-Melo*

#### HAENICKE INSTITUTE:

1. November 16: Meeting with representative from Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia
2. November 28-December 11: Ying Zeng travel to China
3. December 2-5: Jane Blyth travel to University of Tübingen – Germany
4. December 5-8: Jane Blyth travel to American International Recruitment Council (AIRC) – Weston, Florida
5. December 9-13: Michelle Metro-Roland travel to Washington, D.C., New York City, Boston at Amideast (America-Mideast Educational and Training Services), IIE (Institute for International Education) and LASPAU (Academic and Professional Programs for the Americas)
6. December 10-12: Jane Blyth travel to International Consultants for Education and Fairs (ICEF) – Miami, Florida

#### GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AWARD FOR STAFF AND FACULTY:

1. Nominations ended November 30.

#### ASIAN INITIATIVES/CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE:

1. The new director of Confucius Institute, Yi Wu, began on November 27.
2. Meeting with Kalamazoo Public Schools superintendent to begin Chinese language learning at Middle School level

#### INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS / CENTER FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:

1. January 3: International Student Orientation
2. A new Pre-Arrival Guide for incoming international students has been launched as part of the increased inclusion efforts. <https://wmich.edu/internationaladmissions/guide>

#### STUDY ABROAD:

1. Global Leadership cohort planning to SA in Portugal during Spring Break
2. Continued planning for upcoming spring and summer SA programs

#### IMMIGRATION SERVICES:

1. **Termination of the H-4 employment authorization program.** A long-awaited proposal to rescind regulations that permit certain H-4 spouses to apply for employment authorization is set to be published in November 2018. The program termination is an agency priority and a final regulation could be published by mid-2019. The details of the proposed rule – including whether under the rescission plan, currently valid H-4 EADs will remain valid for their entire duration – are not yet known.
2. **H-1B eligibility criteria and wage requirements.** A proposal to revise the definition of an H-1B specialty occupation to “increase focus on obtaining the best and brightest foreign nationals,” last slated for

publication in January 2019, has an updated anticipated publication date of August 2019. The rule is also expected to revise the definitions of “employment” and “employer-employee relationship,” likely in a manner more restrictive for potential H-1B employers, and to address wages.

3. **Green Card Processing:** A new, and thus far relatively vague, proposal for adjustment of status is slated for publication in September 2019. The rule could impact the concurrent filing of Form I-140 immigrant visa petitions with adjustment of status applications, which would have a significant impact on employment-based green card applicants.
4. **USCIS Fee increases:** As the Department of Homeland Security previously stated, it intends to propose increases to USCIS filing fees. The revised anticipated publication date is February 2019.
5. **Public charge inadmissibility:** DHS’s proposed rule on public charge admissibility was published on October 10, 2018 and the agency is accepting public comment through December 10, 2018.
6. **Criteria for B-1 or B-2 classification:** DHS intends to propose a rule to clarify the criteria for B-1 or B-2 classification. This proposed regulation, which had initially been slated for publication during the Obama administration, could limit permissible business activities. The anticipated publication date has been moved from November 2018 to September 2019.

Forty-six days before spring 2019 census – increase in international freshmen enrollment of 38.6%, international transfers – juniors 35.5% increase, seniors 25.7% increase. Overall undergraduate – 19.4% increase (127 more undergraduate students) over spring 2018. Covell asked if there was any data that explained these increases. Zagalo-Melo stated the biggest impact has been changes to international undergraduate student tuition. However, these gains are also the result of continuing partnerships WMU has cultivated with various countries including Oman, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia (WMU has the second largest concentration of scholarship graduate students from Iraq and the largest concentration of government sponsored students from Oman).

Covell asked if WMU was still exploring changes to international graduate student tuition structure. Zagalo-Melo hoped so but admitted that there was a decrease of 8.7% in international graduate student enrollment. He explained this is due to a number of factors including how the credit hours of some of WMU’s masters programs compared to competitor institutions, the length of time it takes to complete some of WMU’s masters’ programs vs. similar programs at other university, etc.

#### *Chair’s Report – Covell*

Covell asked which members of the council are also members of their respective college international committees and that these reports will be included for future monthly meetings beginning in January 2010. The following members indicated their membership:

- Covell – College of Arts and Sciences
- Fedotov – College of Fine Arts
- Archer – College of Education and Human Development

Covell reported that the CAS international committee reviewed the roster of current and past Fulbright award recipients for its college. He also discussed differences between Fulbright research awards versus specialist awards. Metro-Roland stated that it would be helpful to think about ways to advertise WMU faculty on the Fulbright specialist roster to partner international universities.

**Other**

No other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
D. Eric Archer  
IEC Secretary