

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL  
Minutes of Thursday, 18 January 2018, 3 p.m.  
Room 4550 Sangren Hall

**Members present:** D. Eric Archer, James Butterfield, Robert Dlouhy, Shannon McMorrow, Michelle Metro-Roland, Ann Miles, Jun-Seok Oh, Maria Perez-Stable, Zahir Quraeshi, Ayumi Shinoda, Jane Blyth (for Paulo Zagalo-Melo), Germán Zarate-Sandez (for Stephen Covell)

**Members absent:** Igor Fedotov, Willem Homan, William Rantz

**Guest:** Diane Anderson, Vice President for Student Affairs

**Procedural Items**

*Acceptance of the Agenda*

Butterfield moved to accept the January agenda; seconded by Dlouhy. Motion carried.

*Approval of the Minutes*

Shinoda made a motion to correct minutes to reflect Diane Charnley (for Ayumi Shinoda) as present at the December meeting.

Perez-Stable moved to approve minutes from the 7 December 2017 meeting with correction; seconded by Metro-Roland. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Action Items**

*International Student Inclusion – Diane Anderson, Vice President for Student Affairs*

Before arrival of guest, Miles asked council members for thoughts to help guide the conversation with Vice President Anderson. Dlouhy suggested discussing international student housing. Butterfield asked if Anderson could discuss integration between the curriculum and co-curricular activities. Miles recommended that Butterfield discuss with Anderson the recent work of the international student inclusion working group of the IEC. Miles also suggested that perhaps Anderson could discuss the structure of her division in relation to supporting international students.

Anderson arrived and discussed the role and organization of the Division of Student Affairs at Western Michigan University and the role of Student Affairs in supporting international students during her 25-year tenure. Anderson also presented on several initiatives ongoing or planned at the institution: 1) specific details of the recently created global living-learning community launching in fall 2018; 2) creation of international internship partnerships (for domestic students) through the Office of Career and Student Employment; 3) international student

resources and resume review day (for career preparation); 4) educating faculty on issues of academic integrity related to differing cultural expectations/norms of international students and how to prepare these students for expectations at WMU; 5) providing travel opportunity for student services staff (particularly hourly staff) to participate in study abroad programs to increase internationalization of staff.

Dlouhy asked about operations of Hadley Hall over the holidays and if there would be any availability for short term programs that require housing during periods in which other residence halls are typically closed. Anderson stated that Hadley Hall is slated to be open year-round; however, there will probably be times when it will need to be closed in order to clean and repair the facility and that she would have to inquire as to further information. Metro-Roland asked how many international students stayed in the residence halls over the holidays and Anderson stated she thought the number was approximately 15 students. Several other council members asked Anderson about residence life policies related to the needs of various student populations (including international students) who need to move in early, stay in the residence halls over holidays, etc.

Miles asked how international students are distributed among the various halls on campus (do they self-select into certain buildings, are they scattered around campus, etc.). Anderson stated that student selection of halls is done online and students mostly self-select into available units at their preference. She also stated that many international students choose to live off campus in order to accommodate their food/cooking preferences, to host families for extended periods of time, etc.

Quraeshi commented on two areas he sees as of particular interest for international students: internship opportunities and practical experiences with local businesses within the community. Additional members of the council clarified various issues related to work opportunities for international students both during and after their degree programs.

Anderson also discussed issues of mental health of international students related to various cultural norms. Her department has resources to help international students navigate issues and concerns related to mental health.

Miles asked if there are any other specific initiatives student affairs is responsible for in helping domestic students connect with international students on campus. Anderson stated that the Office of Student Engagement manages many programs and policies for leadership development, registered student organizations, and training around diversity and multiculturalism. She also mentioned how Student Affairs has worked closely with the Office of Orientation and New Student Programs to help integrate international students more into Fall Welcome activities in fall 2018. Finally, Anderson discussed one of the two new Transformational Initiatives funded by the President's Office to establish learning communities for all new freshmen and transfer students and that international students and domestic students will participate in these learning communities together.

Butterfield provided a brief update for Anderson related to the work of the IEC's international inclusion working group. After completing his brief update on the research of his working group, he asked Anderson about coordination between the academic curriculum and the co-curriculum in increasing global engagement on campus. Anderson suggested that the WMU Signature program could be a good example of this. Butterfield asked if creating a registered student organization to include international and domestic students could be another example. Anderson agreed this could be a good example and she would have to explore if the Office of Student Engagement tracks the demographics of students within student organizations. Metro-Roland expressed some concern that perhaps not enough international students participate in professional student organizations (housed within academic colleges), which could limit their ability to build professional networks in their fields.

#### *Study Abroad Credits – Miles*

Miles discussed the charge of the IEC related to guidance of transferring credits for Study Abroad programs at WMU and that she is planning to meet with the Haenicke Institute for Global Education Executive Director Jane Blyth and Study Abroad Director Lee Penyak to discuss specifics related to this council charge. Blyth explained the process by which students register and are evaluated on study abroad programs and how these credits are then converted to WMU grades. Blyth stated that her staff is examining connections between GPA and study abroad participation and that she will provide information to Miles during their meeting in order to clarify the IEC's role with this charge. Blyth also recommended that the University Registrar be included in future conversations about changes to credit determinations for study abroad.

Miles asked if council members have any input for her to bring to her meeting with Blyth and Penyak. Zarate-Sandez asked if Blyth could provide more clarification on procedures for a student to transfer credits earned during a semester-long study abroad program back to WMU. Butterfield also asked what current issues Blyth sees related to procedures for transferring study abroad credit.

#### *Working Group Updates and Plans – Miles*

International Education Working Group: Butterfield provided an update on the work of his group. He asked if the working group could present the findings of their research at a future IEC meeting.

Internationalizing Research Working Group: Oh stated that the survey his working group has created is ready to send out to faculty and should be going out soon; however, the working group members have not met so far this semester.

#### *Chair's Report – Miles*

Miles suggested that members of the IEC could work to facilitate communication between the IEC and various college level committees tasked with internationalization. Members should then be prepared to report on the initiatives of each college's international committee at the next IEC meeting (February

2018). Miles also encouraged IEC members to participate in an internationalization workshop sponsored by the American Council on Education on Tuesday, January 23 on the fourth floor of Ellsworth Hall.

Finally, Miles encouraged IEC members to weigh in on the ongoing development of Essential Studies.

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

Blyth commented on the ongoing success of the WMU *You Are Welcome Here* campaign. Effective January 1, 2018, Metro-Roland will begin serving as the international student advocate. The Confucius Institute is offering Chinese language classes during the spring 2018 and will also host a Chinese New Year celebration in February 2018. International student enrollment is up 105 students from spring 2017. Spring recruitment is taking place by various members of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education staff. Study Abroad is hosting three study abroad expos in January. The Study Abroad office was awarded a Passport Caravan award from the Council for International Education Exchange.

A Fulbright Scholars workshop will be held in conjunction with Spring Convocation and the Global Education awards for faculty and staff will be celebrated. Finally, the Fulbright Reception will be hosted on Friday, February 9, 2018.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
D. Eric Archer  
IEC Secretary