

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Thursday, 15 February 2018, 3 p.m.
Room 4550 Sangren Hall

Members present: D. Eric Archer, James Butterfield, Joan Conway (for Robert Dlouhy), Igor Fedotov, Shannon McMorrow, Michelle Metro-Roland, Ann Miles, Maria Perez-Stable, Zahir Quraeshi, Ayumi Shinoda, William Rantz, Germán Zarate-Sandez (for Stephen Covell)

Members absent: Willem Homan, Jun-Seok Oh, Paulo Zagalo-Melo

Guests: Lee Penyak, Director of Study Abroad; Joseph Rasich, Assistant Director of Study Abroad

Procedural Items

Acceptance of the Agenda

Miles proposed to add international internships as an amendment to the agenda. Perez-Stable moved to accept the February agenda with addition of international internships; seconded by Rantz. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Butterfield moved to approve minutes from the 18 January 2018 meeting; seconded by Rantz. Motion carried.

Discussion/Action Items

Faculty Development Proposal – Miles

Butterfield moved to consider discussion on the proposal, Rantz seconded. Motion passed with Rantz abstention.

American Council on Education Webinar – Perez-Stable

Perez-Stable discussed information from the American Council on Education (ACE) webinar on internationalization presented in January. She provided council members with various statistics presented in the webinar based on a survey of internationalization efforts at colleges and universities in the U.S. The first priority highlighted by the majority of universities was to increase study abroad. Perez-Stable and Metro-Roland stated that they would share highlights from the webinar and survey of universities with members of the council.

Study Abroad Credit – Penyak and Rasich

Miles pointed out that study abroad credit is related to IEC charge number six. Miles suggested that this may not be an issue that the IEC needs to take up; however, she asked for Penyak to elaborate on this topic for the council. Penyak

then provided an overview of the process by which study abroad opportunities are evaluated for credit or no credit. Typically, the study abroad office prefers to know if a student would like to take a course for credit/no credit prior to his/her departure. However, they do allow students to inform them of a change in their decision 1-2 weeks from the start of the class abroad. Then, the study abroad office must work with the student to see if his/her college/program will accept a course for no credit (e.g., major/minor restrictions, etc.).

Penyak then went on to discuss what he believes to be a larger issue related to the specific IEC charge – transfer of credits/grades for a study abroad course/program. He then provided statistics to the council related to WMU student grades for those who participate in semester- or year-long study abroad programs and some information on how various universities across the U.S. handle the transfer of grades/credits for a students' study abroad program to the home institution. Based on the information compiled by his office, Penyak stated that he does not believe there needs to be a change related to the way WMU accepts the transfer of grades/credits from semester- and year-long study abroad courses hosted at international universities. Butterfield asked Rantz why this would be a charge from the Faculty Senate Executive Board. Rantz stated he was not aware of why this would have been a charge and Miles stated that it did not seem to be an issue and that the council should no longer focus its attention on this particular charge.

Miles then asked Penyak if there are other issues from the perspective of Study Abroad that he would like the IEC to take up. He stated that one issue their office is having is that there is sometimes lag time between the ending of a study abroad course and when the international institution provides their grade to WMU. This has prohibited some students from being recognized for their grades (e.g., Dean's List). According to Rasich, the Registrar's Office states they are not able to place a student on the Dean's List if a student's study abroad grades are not received by a particular date required for reporting of students' grades.

International Internships – Penyak and Rasich

Penyak explained that the Haenicke Institute for Global Education charged the study abroad office to expand its offerings of international internships and that Rasich was tasked with exploring more opportunities for such internships. Penyak provided the council with a document providing information on international internships at WMU. Of the 617 students who studied abroad in 2016-2017, only 13 participated in an international internship. Rasich then provided the council with details on the various options for international internships and how these opportunities are structured. Penyak also discussed differences between internships, service learning and volunteerism and how programs could work to more readily accept international internships for credit.

Penyak and Rasich provided an overview of how credit is applied to international internships at WMU. Typically, credit is provided through a specific department prefix. Otherwise, an INTL prefix is used when a student is participating in a third-party provider internship through the Study Abroad Office. Ultimately, a WMU instructor of record must assign the grade for a study abroad course. Typically,

students are not able to count these internships toward their degrees if their programs do not require an internship. Miles informed Penyak that this reality is a topic that the IEC has discussed taking on more actively as a future charge. Rasich mentioned that one resource that could be helpful to his work is a directory of faculty participating in international research who might be able to assist him in developing partnerships with their connections in different countries. Butterfield informed him that a survey to faculty related to their international research efforts has recently been distributed and might provide such information going forward.

Integration of Study Abroad – Butterfield, McMorrow, and Metro-Roland

Butterfield presented information on best practices to integrate study abroad into the larger curriculum. He pointed to an example from the University of Minnesota as a guide for addressing this topic. The biggest issue related to integrating study abroad is addressing fit of the program with a student's curriculum. Various council members discussed the current state of study abroad programs at WMU in their respective departments and the types of integration they have seen at other institutions. Miles asked if this is an item that the IEC would like to take on going forward. Butterfield suggested that council members should educate themselves more on this topic and table it for a future meeting. Miles asked if it is possible for Butterfield to provide more information by next month's meeting, so the council can decide how to move forward.

College International Committee Updates – Fedotov, McMorrow, Oh, and Archer

Fedotov (College of Fine Arts) – has tried to contact vice-chair of international committee for updates but has not received them yet.

McMorrow (College of Health and Human Services) – contacted a member of their committee who reported difficulty in scheduling a meeting. The committee met once in the fall semester and has been discussing looking at the role of the committee in reviewing study abroad program proposals from their college before approval by the dean.

Oh (College of Engineering and Applied Sciences) – no report (absent)

Archer (College of Education and Human Development) – committee has not yet met during the 2017-2018 year

Working Group Updates and Plans – Butterfield and Oh

Oh – no report (absent)

Butterfield – provided IEC members with a presentation on the work of the international student inclusion working group, primarily around the research the work group has reviewed about issues related to this topic. Specifically, their work has focused on the role of faculty related to international student inclusion. Three main topics uncovered in their review include: faculty pedagogy, patterns of interaction of international students, and international student adjustment.

Butterfield also highlighted the distinction between the concepts of engagement and inclusion, with their presentation focusing on the latter.

Quraeshi asked if Butterfield could share some of the research his working group has found. Miles then asked Butterfield what should be our next steps and he stated he believes the council should decide on steps going forward. Metro-Roland suggested that the IEC continue to provide guidance for ongoing and future university initiatives to consider the needs of international students. Miles agreed and states that this should be a goal that the IEC should be continuously working on. Metro-Roland suggested inviting a representative from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion or a university-wide diversity council to discuss efforts with the IEC to improve international student inclusion on campus.

Miles asked members of the council to consider the three areas presented by the working group and to discuss these items more at the March meeting with the goal of coming up with future priorities that the council can focus on.

Chair's Report – Miles

No report

Haenicke Institute for Global Education Report – Metro-Roland

Spring Convocation will be held on Friday, February 23. A global engagement award will be given.

Five study abroad programs will take place over Spring Break.

Other

Quraeshi announced that a new representative will take his place on the IEC beginning in March 2018.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
D. Eric Archer
IEC Secretary