

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

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

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

**Members absent:** Willem Homan, Ayumi Shinoda

**Guests:** Pablo Gomez, Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Michael Ryan, Professor of Economics; Sara Summy, Associate Professor of Special Education and Literacy Studies; Hu (Jeffery) Xie, Assistant Professor of Marketing

**Procedural Items**

*Acceptance of the Agenda*

Miles proposed the following corrections to the 15 March 2018 agenda:

1. Add Pablo Gomez, Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering to list of guests.
2. Remove Zagalo-Melo and add Blyth as representative for Haenicke Institute for Global Education.
3. Add Butterfield to presenters of College Committee Updates.

Butterfield moved to accept the March agenda as amended; seconded by Dlouhy. Motion carried.

*Approval of the Minutes*

Butterfield proposed a correction to the 15 February 2018 minutes to reflect that in addition to Butterfield, McMorrow and Metro-Roland also presented on information related to International Student Inclusion working group report.

Perez-Stable moved to approve minutes from the 15 February 2018 meeting as corrected; seconded by McMorrow. Motion carried.

**Discussion/Action Items**

*College Committee Updates – Fedotov and Butterfield*

Fedotov (College of Fine Arts) – no report (College of Fine Arts committee is not meeting due to chair of committee being on sabbatical).

Butterfield (College of Arts and Sciences) – The College of Arts and Sciences is sponsoring a workshop on April 2 from noon to 2 p.m. in 2208 Dunbar Hall, focusing on internationalization of the curriculum in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. The workshop is not limited to faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences, and it particularly welcomes faculty from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Metro-Roland asked if graduate students in STEM fields would be able to attend if they have an interest in teaching. Butterfield stated he was unsure and that he would have to ask about the inclusion of graduate students.

*International Student Inclusion – Butterfield and Guests*

Pablo Gomez, Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Michael Ryan, Professor of Economics; Sara Summy, Associate Professor of Special Education and Literacy Studies; Hu (Jeffery) Xie, Assistant Professor of Marketing

Miles introduced goals of international student inclusion discussion led by Butterfield and guests. Butterfield then explained the purpose of the council's international student inclusion working group and what the focus of its activities have been. Butterfield then asked if guests could speak to their experiences teaching and working with international students.

Ryan discussed his experiences first and then strategies he has used to include international students – welcome events, introductions, etc.

Summy discussed a strategy that she utilizes in a 6000-level class. She found that she had a number of international students in the class and it was difficult to encourage them to participate (particularly female international students). She found the idea of using a participation log, which she discovered from her review of the literature on teaching large lecture sections. Using the log, students were required to document their contributions to class discussions and submit the log to the instructor at midterm along with a self-assessment of their participation up to that point. In addition, students also set goals for their participation in the second half of the class. This led to greater participation by her international students and more interaction between domestic and international students.

IEC member Fedotov discussed some of the challenges he faces with students in the College of Fine Arts, particularly around international student English language competence and comprehension. Butterfield then asked Summy if she had noticed similar issues as Fedotov in language and shyness of international students in her classes. Summy stated that she saw this in particular with her female international students. She did make some suggestions that faculty should consider including assisting international students in understanding how to study and prepare for courses and also how to understand a class syllabus.

Gomez discussed his experiences teaching international students at the undergraduate level (about 10-20% of engineering students at the undergraduate level are international students). He works to make sure that the international students in his class are spread out among groups of domestic students. At the

graduate level, he stated that his college tries to bring in international scholars to introduce the international graduate students he works with to a diverse set of scholars. Butterfield asked Gomez for more details on the procedures he uses in mixing groups of domestic and international students.

Xie discussed that the experiences of international students working with domestic students tend to be very different depending on the course, required assignments, etc. He advocated for more programming to help domestic students internationalize and to better understand the experiences of international students. Xie also discussed his own experiences as an international student and the challenges related to language, class discussions, etc. What he realized is the more opportunities he had to speak, the easier it became. He agreed with other comments about strategies to encourage international students to participate more in classes. Xie also discussed the challenges international students face in adjusting to both the host culture and American classroom culture.

Butterfield then asked guests what advice they would give to faculty to make their teaching more inclusive. Ryan stated he posts notes related to his lectures prior to class sessions to allow students to prepare for class more effectively. Several other guests stated that it is important for faculty to become familiar with their international students by having conversations with them, inviting them to office hours, talking about classroom expectations, etc. Other council members discussed creating opportunities for international students to talk about their own culture and/or to ask them about their experiences in the U.S. and in the academic environment.

Metro-Roland discussed some of her work with international student orientation and the various items addressed. However, she reminded council members that she is only able to address so many items with the limited amount of time she has with international student orientation. Therefore, everyone has to be involved in supporting international student inclusion on campus. Furthermore, she stated that the literature supports that idea that what is effective in increasing international student inclusion is good for all college students.

#### *Chair's Report – Miles*

No report

#### *Haenicke Institute for Global Education Report – Blyth*

International Festival is scheduled for Sunday, March 25 at 4 p.m., in partnership with the Invisible Need Project. Attendees will be given a raffle ticket for each non-perishable food item contributed. The Haenicke Institute has developed an international recruitment training program which will be rolled out in the fall and will help to standardize the way various university agents perform international recruiting activities.

The “You Are Welcome Here” campaign will be filming more features in the coming months. The Haenicke Institute participates in the Behind the W program and has a staff member who will present on international students at WMU during

that training. The Confucius Institute received a request from the Defense Logistics Institute in Battle Creek to partner on a project related to Asia. The Fulbright Reception has been rescheduled to Friday, March 23.

International undergraduate student admissions are up for next year while international graduate student admissions are down. Spring recruitment of international students is taking place in various countries. Campus Navigator is an online booklet that incoming students receive and The Haenicke Institute now receives two pages in this booklet when it previously received only one page.

The U.S. Department of State will be visiting for a meet and greet at WMU in April.

Three pre-freshmen study abroad programs will be trying to recruit students soon.

The assistant director and program specialist from the WMU Study Abroad Office traveled to Canada with four WMU staff members to explore setting up low-cost study abroad programs in Canada.

#### **Other**

Metro-Roland discussed updates on the Success@WMU program rolling out in the fall. Her task force reviewed various best practices from a list of programs at the University of Minnesota, focused on international and domestic student inclusion. She encouraged council members to think about potential international students who might be appropriate peer mentors and to nominate them or encourage them to apply. Otherwise, international students might not be well-represented in the pool of peer mentors hired.

Rantz clarified why charge six was included in the IEC charges by providing documentation from the 17 March 2016 meeting (based on a question asked about this charge at a previous meeting). At the 17 March 2016 meeting, MOA-16/09 Repeating a WMU Course for Credit in Study Abroad, was approved. The Memorandum of Action would have allowed a student to replace a course taken at WMU with an equivalent course taken at a study abroad location. Prior to this MOA, a student could only replace a course taken at a WMU study abroad location with one taken at WMU, but not the reverse. Provost Tim Greene rejected the MOA, as he was unaware that WMU was accepting grades from exchange partners and using them as WMU grades. Nowhere else did WMU do that. He wanted to discuss the practice with Associate Provost Wolfgang Schlör, but then both individuals subsequently left their positions prior to a discussion taking place.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
D. Eric Archer  
IEC Secretary