

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

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.,

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