

International Education Council

Annual Report for 2008-2009

Stephen Malcolm, 2008-9 IEC chair, 18 June 2009

Members:

Said AbuBakr (vice-chair), Sisay Asefa, Brett Berquist, Maira Bundza, Stephen Covell, Caroline Gore, Willem Homan, Dini Metro-Roland (substituting for Josephine Barry Davis), Robert Dlouhy, Vikram Hemanathan, Yvette Hyter, Kazuhiro Iwamoto, Mary Lagerwey, Mushtaq Luqmani, Stephen Malcolm (chair), Donald McCloud, Jorge Rodriguez.

Senate Charges for 2008-2009

“Role statement:

The International Education Council serves in an advisory capacity to initiate, review, and recommend policies dealing with the international aspects of the University’s mission and goals. The council serves to advocate the continued internationalization of the University and to maintain review of the University’s various administrative arrangements, policies, and procedures for the conduct of international programs and activities.

The council’s oversight includes internationalization activities on campus including, but not limited to, internationalization of the curriculum and enrichment of the international development and experience of faculty, staff, and students, as well as the University’s presence in other countries and territories.

Charges 2008-09:

In addition to the specific responsibilities and functions noted in the International Education Council’s role statement and the work of the IEC standing committees, the Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the IEC to consider, as a committee of the whole or through the appropriate sub-committee or task force, the following issues:

1. Review the scope and description of the role statement and standing charges and assess the effectiveness of council practices.
2. Collaborate with the Undergraduate Studies Council in examination of general education curriculum specifically in regard to assessment of how well the program prepares students for a global future. Make recommendations for possible general education enhancements related to this issue.
3. Assess and if appropriate make recommendations regarding how WMU is serving the needs of international students.
4. Assess and if appropriate make recommendations regarding how WMU is serving the internationalization needs of the community. Identify local community leaders who might be productively engaged in conversations about WMU’s activities in international education.
5. Monitor curricular issues related to WMU students who study abroad as well as international students who study at WMU in conjunction with the Undergraduate Studies Council and/or Graduate Studies Council as appropriate.

6. Review IEC's role statement and standing charges in light of participation in the Internationalization Laboratory. Make recommendations for how IEC and WMU can best utilize the opportunities provided by the laboratory, especially as regards strategic planning and ongoing efforts to clarify WMU's activities related to globally relevant education.

7. Collaborate with the Graduate Studies Council and Research Policies Council to explore the possibility of extending tuition remission at the resident level to all extramurally grant-funded graduate assistants at doctoral and masters levels. Seek input from any administrative office related to budgetary implications and feasibility.

8. Explore mechanisms that may encourage faculty to develop and/or participate in bringing global perspectives to their own areas of teaching and research; recommend and provide avenues of support as needed.

9. Address any continuing or outstanding issues or initiatives as deemed necessary by the council. To the extent possible conclude any outstanding initiative by producing a memorandum of action (MOA), report or resolution.

Note

It is understood the IEC will seek information from and communicate with all administrative offices necessary to carry out its charges, especially the Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE). The IEC is expected to keep the Senate Executive Board apprised of progress, especially in connection with any MOA it may develop and to give advance notice of any action the IEC seeks to place on the Senate agenda, including the final text of any proposed MOA, report or resolution. The Executive Board should also be notified of substantive procedural issues addressed by the IEC. The IEC shall provide a written summary of its progress on the above charges and any other activities undertaken no later than June 30, 2009."

Action:

Most of the IEC activity from May 2008 to May 2009 was centered around membership of the American Council on Education (ACE) Internationalization Laboratory. We began the year with an MOA recommending membership of the Laboratory and joined the current cohort of institutions during the summer of 2008. IEC chair Malcolm became part of the leadership team with HIGE Dean Donald McCloud, HIGE Associate Dean Bill Woods and HIGE Executive Director of International Programs Brett Berquist. This team attended the 2008-9 cohort “kick-off” meeting of the Internationalization Laboratory in August 2008 with our cohort members of the University of Colorado at Boulder, Temple, Purdue, Central Connecticut State, Pacific University (OR), and Saint Mary’s College (Notre Dame, IN).

Rather than address each charge listed above, I think it makes more sense to itemize actions below because the wording of the senate charges implies tangible outcomes to each charge. Instead, what we have been doing is trying to integrate a series of actions aimed at the development of a new strategic plan for international activity at WMU, in partnership with HIGE. I think this activity addresses most of the senate charges to the IEC for 2008-2009:

- (1) IEC voted to join the ACE Internationalization Laboratory (May 15) submitted as MOA to senate executive – approved and implemented August 2008. The goal of this initiative is to generate a strategic plan for the effective implementation of international initiatives by HIGE, Colleges and the WMU administration with consultation from IEC. The IEC and HIGE hosted the first campus visit by ACE consultant Dr Barbara Hill on October 23, 2008. Malcolm and the leadership team attended the ACE laboratory meeting in Washington DC on 30-31 January 2009 and engaged with monthly conference calls with Barbara Hill. Malcolm also provided a suggested table of contents for the review (available at the HIGE website).
- (2) IEC also voted to increase the IEC membership by 1 person to include representation from unaffiliated units (May 15). This was also submitted as a general MOA to the senate for consideration of implementation by all senate councils – approved and implemented October 2008.
- (3) Both Malcolm and the IEC worked with the *Research Policies, Undergraduate and Graduate Studies Councils* on several MOAs and issues:
 - a. Accelerated degree programs
 - b. Tuition remission at the resident level for all extramurally grant-funded graduate assistants at doctoral and masters levels. Two MOAs from the *Research Policies Council* and the *Graduate Studies Council* were supported unanimously by the IEC because this supports international students and facilitates international activity at WMU. HIGE offers of instate tuition rates to Fulbright-

funded international students generated an immediate increase in successful applications to WMU.

- c. With the *Graduate Studies Council* the IEC reviewed graduate programs for an MBA in China (some problems noted, but also support from some IEC members), and an MA in Criminology, Law and Public Policy at the University of Malta (very enthusiastic support from the IEC)
 - d. With the *Undergraduate Studies Council* the IEC also moved to support 4 further MOAs on (1) residency and credit from WMU Study Abroad programs, (2) GPA policy, (3) promotion of internships and practicums abroad, and (4) failure policy for Study Abroad courses replaced by on-campus courses.
- (4) IEC worked with the College of Arts & Sciences to establish a new international committee chaired by Malcolm, with support from Dean Tom Kent. The Arts & Sciences International Committee (ASIC) began formal meetings in January 2009. This committee communicates with IEC (overlapping membership) and committees in the Colleges of Health and Human Services, Engineering and Applied Sciences and the Haworth College of Business. Brett Berquist has also been working with the Colleges of Education and Fine Arts to establish similar committees in these colleges. The CEAS committee reorganized under Said AbuBakr's leadership as the CEAS International Education Committee.
 - (5) IEC reorganized their working groups with new charges to focus on information required for our review of all international activities at WMU as part of our membership of the ACE Internationalization Laboratory. These working groups include *Internationalization Across the Curriculum (IAC)*, *International Assessment (IA)*, *Faculty Development (FD)* and *International Student Recruitment and Retention (ISRR)*. All IEC members are active in at least one working group and additional members have been recruited to help review these areas of international activity. The *Faculty Development* working group also suggested that language departments might consider offering programs to facilitate international activities by faculty and staff. In collaboration with the WMU Spanish department, the Haenicke Institute has developed a two-week program in Querétaro, Mexico for July 2009 in which successful applicants will study Spanish language and Mexican culture with HIGE-supported funding for 75% of the costs. The IAC working group developed a survey of WMU faculty and staff aimed at attitudes and experience with international activities that was implemented after Malcolm presented the survey to the faculty senate on 12 March 2009. There was an excellent response to the survey and collected data will help to inform our review of international activity at WMU.
 - (6) IEC invited Vice Provost Eileen Evans to discuss institutional accreditation evaluation and its relevance to international activities. Our review of international activities at WMU will include all available assessment data and an emphasis on planning for the future, both of which are major

- components of accreditation by the Higher learning Commission. The timing of our review of international activities will coincide with the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools review of WMU next year.
- (7) The International Education Faculty Development Fund (IEFDF) was implemented by HIGE with assistance from the IEC and IEC agreed to establish 2 deadlines for grant submission rather than 3, with more flexibility for considering activities during the year, including summer months.
 - (8) The IEC promoted efforts by our two student members, Vikram Hemanathan and Kazuhiro Iwamoto, who reviewed current WMU data from 3 reports on student perspectives on global activities at WMU. This led to the development of a student survey in collaboration with the *International Student Recruitment and Retention* working group. This survey was not implemented because the timing coincided with the faculty and staff survey and the IEC felt that focus groups might be a better way to gather relevant information in conjunction with the report data reviewed. The IEC also invited the *International Student Coalition* at WMU to show their 16-minute video, *The International Classroom* to the council. The IEC applauded their thoughtful, HIGE-funded presentation and encourage wide dissemination of the video across campus.
 - (9) Lastly, in his role as chair of the IEC, Malcolm also sought advice from Provost Tim Greene and the Faculty Senate Executive Board and Senate President John Jellies about issues regarding the administration of international activities at WMU.

Steve Malcolm, 18 June 2009