

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2011

Members present: Dr. Ronan Bernas, Dr. David Boggs, Dr. Stephen Canfield, Dr. Marilyn Coles, Dr. Tesa Leonce, Dr. Dejan Magoc, Mr. Shaukat Sheikh, Dr. Ralph Marshall

Members absent: Dr. Linda Simpson, Dr. Richard Sylvia,

Ex-Officio present: Dr. Robert Augustine, Mr. Kevin Vicker

Ex-Officio absent: Ms. Pam Collins, Ms. Sara Schmidt, Ms. Wendy Williamson

Invited Guests present: Mr. Farhan Aziz; Ms. Lisa Brown; Dean Mary Anne Hanner, Dean Mahyar Izadi, Dean John Stimac

I. Welcome, Dr. Coles

II. College Dean Presentations

A. Dr. Mary Anne Hanner, College of Sciences

Dean Hanner presented on the initiatives the college is taking to advance international education. Her summary is attached.

B. Dr. Mahyar Izadi, Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences

Dean Izadi noted that each department in the college has its own culture and strengths in achieving international initiatives, his summary is attached.

C. Dr. John Stimac, Honors College

Dean Stimac reported on the efforts of the Honors College to advance international education, his summary is attached.

III. Approval of the February 4, 2011, minutes, Dr. Coles.

Motion was made by Dr. Canfield to accept the minutes; seconded by Dr. Bernas; accepted by acclamation.

IV. Reports

A. International Students and Scholars, Mr. Vicker (Interim Director, OISS). Mr. Vicker reported that the department and Deb Kidwell were working with ElluminateLive to be able to talk to students ahead of their arrival.

Working with Tim Taylor from English to develop new program within the Writing Center to assist struggling students.

Testing out a new agent in Nepal. Working to collaborate more extensively with Brenda Major in undergraduate admissions.

VI. Items Pending

A. Upcoming IEC Presentations:

1. April 1, 2011: Kelly Miller, Housing
Jody Horn, Dining

No time for other reports, another party needed the conference room and the meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Next IEC meeting: April 1, 2011, 8:30 a.m., 3108 Blair Hall Conference Room

Next IEC Executive Committee meetings: March 11, 9:00 a.m., Dr. Augustine's office
Recorder: Lori Henderson, The Graduate School

International Activities, Issues & Events within the College of Sciences

Biological Sciences

ACTIVITY

In the summer of 2010, Dr. Zhiwei Liu gave three presentations in China. He worked on a collaborative project on Cynipidae wasps symbiosis with Wolbachia (funded by the Chinese National Science Foundation) for three weeks in China (Central South University of Forestry and Technology) (with one manuscript submitted). In association with this project, Dr. Liu gave an informal workshop on Cynipidae systematics and taxonomy and had six graduates participating.

In July 2010, Dr. Michael Menze participated in an expedition to Antarctica to research the effect of climate change on silverfish. He presented findings of this two month expedition at a campus wide presentation in January 2011.

In September, Dr. Andrew Methven was invited to Belgium to participate in the Russulales Congress - 2010. The congress included mycologists from Europe, Asia, the United States and Australia who work on mushrooms in the Russulales. As part of the Congress, Dr. Methven conducted field work in southern Belgium, gave an invited presentation, submitted a manuscript to be published in a proceedings from the congress, and developed a collaborative project with mycologists at the University of Ghent in Belgium. He submitted a summer CFR grant to pursue the collaborative research project.

Also in September 2010, Marschelle McCoy responded to a request from the Office of International Students and Scholars to be a volunteer for the International Family Friends Program. She has befriended a Pakistani family to help family members become more assimilated to American culture, work on conversation skills and to just be a friend to them.

In November 2010, Nancy Coutant, Nida Elmuti & Marschelle McCoy attended "A Taste of the World," which is a fundraising event hosted by the Association of International Students. Their attendance was in support of our departmental students from other countries. This student led event featured foods from many nations that were all prepared by students. Highlights of the evening included speeches and dance presentations. (FYI – This event was also attended by COS faculty from other departments)

Departmental students hosted "A Nepali Dinner" in November 2010 which was attended by Robert Colombo, Marschelle McCoy and several departmental graduate students.

In December 2010, Dr. Gordon Tucker was invited to Kathmandu, Nepal to present at the International Conference on Biodiversity, Livelihood and Climate Change in the Himalayas. While there, Dr. Ticker gave an invited presentation on his research, chaired a session on natural resources, participated in a Ph.D thesis exam and gave a guest lecture at Tribhuvan University.

Also in December 2010, Nida Elmuti hosted an annual dinner during Ramadan for Muslim students.

Dr. Nilay Chakraborty visited the department in January 2011, at the invitation of Dr. Michael Menze. Dr. Chakraborty hails from the Center for Engineering in Medicine & BioMEMS Resource Center at Harvard Medical School. He came to EIU to generate cloning vectors expressing several ice nucleation proteins from bacterial sources. This is a pilot study to investigate the potential of ice nucleation proteins in mammalian cryopreservation. While here, Dr. Chakraborty also presented a seminar on lyopreservation of mammalian cells using a novel spin-drying machine. Several vectors were successfully generated. Studies of their function are currently on the way. Furthermore, Dr. Chakraborty agreed to be an adjunct faculty member to the department and also agreed to serve on the M.A. committee of Dr. Menze's graduate student, Mr. John Anderson. John will be visiting Dr. Chakraborty this May to work on another project that involves lyopreservation of insect cell lines. Originally from Bombay, India. Dr. Chakraborty holds a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina specializing in Mechanical Engineering (Bioengineering).

In March 2011, Environmental Biology major, Manisha Pant of Kathmandu, Nepal will participate in a campus wide seminar hosted by Women in Science and Mathematics (WiSM). Ms. Pant will discuss why she chose the sciences as her field of study, how she overcame barriers to education and will also discuss why she chose EIU to complete her educational goals.

Lastly, Dr. Zhiwei Liu is very active in recruiting visiting faculty to the university for research. This year the department has welcomed three researchers from China to Dr. Liu's lab. Following is a synopsis of their backgrounds and research projects.

1. Dr Yiping Wang, (July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011), visiting professor from Zhejiang Forestry & Agriculture College, LingAn, Zhejiang, China. Dr Wang has received a scholarship from the Chinese National Foundation for International Exchanges and supported by an EIU Graduate School Scholarship awarded to me for hosting a visitor.

Project: Systematics of Cynipidae gall wasps from China (one manuscript submitted and two more manuscripts almost ready for submission).

2. Dr. Chengquan Cao, (July 10-July 12, 2010), Sichuan Normal College, LeShan, Sichuan, China., Associate Professor

Project: Behavioral ecology of aquatic Megaloptera from China (one manuscript submitted)

3. Mr. Zhiguang Liu, Research Associate, Beijing Bee Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences, Beijing, China. In addition to his research, Mr. Liu also gave a presentation titled: Diversity and Conservation of *Apis cerana* in China.

Project: Population genetics of the eastern honey bee *Apis cerana* (manuscript in preparation).

STUDY ABROAD

The department of Biological Sciences currently sponsors three Study Abroad opportunities.

Environmental Biology and International Management Issues is a course offered in Belize. Student participants learn about environmental issues that affect the people of this beautiful country. Students focus not only on the local efforts to protect the biological richness but also but investigate how international organizations are helping to protect the biological diversity of the country.

Plant Usage and Culture in China Ethnobotany is an investigation of past and present human dependence on plants, emphasizing plants used as foods and medicines. This course is an onsite exploration of the diverse ways in which plants form an integral part of modern China and its history. By studying how plants have been or are used in human societies, ethnobotany also gains insight into the complex relationship between plant uses and cultures. China is an outstanding location for the study of ethnobotany, allowing close examination of the diversity of human usages of plants, past and present, and its implications on humanity in the near future.

Subtropical and Marine Ecology is an intensive one-week study abroad experience at Forfar Field Station on Andros Island in the Bahamas where students will be exposed to ecosystems (barrier, fringing, and patch reefs, tide pools, mangrove forest, subtropical forests, blue holes, etc.) that do not occur in east-central Illinois. Students observe subtropical plants and animals emphasizing marine fish and invertebrates in a variety of habitats including coral reefs (barrier, fringing, and patch reefs), turtle grass beds, oceanic blue holes, tidal pools and flats, mangrove and pine forests, and jungle-like coppices. They also conduct research projects learn about conservation issues related to these habitats and the Bahamian culture.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES & IDEAS

Meet the Faculty Welcome Brunch for international students to be held in August. This brunch will offer students the opportunity to meet departmental faculty, learn of faculty research interests and specialties and to acquaint them with departmental practices, policies, etc. A focus will be made to encourage students to seek out faculty for assistance, discuss barriers to learning and success, etc.

Annual International Student Dinner This gathering is proposed following requests from a few international majors for info on departmental course offerings. These students are gathering information to take/send home to others who are seeking to continue their education abroad (in the US). One student actually said that she was “recruiting.” In response to these requests and recruitment efforts, the department has decided to take a proactive stance and maximize the possibility of gaining qualified international students to complete their education at EIU, and preferably within the Department of Biological Sciences. The department will hold an annual dinner with Biological Sciences majors who are international students. This dinner gives student majors the opportunity to share about their homeland. They then will be presented with detailed information on undergraduate and graduate course/major opportunities. This meal will be held in April 2011 (but an annual date will be determined later) as many students plan to leave campus and/or the US immediately following the end of the Spring semester.

Outstanding International Student Award It is proposed that the College of Sciences establish a monetary award for the undergraduate international student, within the college, who has the highest GPA. This determination can easily be made by our Certification Officer or College Advisor. In the case of multiple students having the same GPA, additional determining criteria could be established or the recipient could be determined by simple lottery. If the College is not able to fund the award independently, an assessment of \$100 from each academic department could be incurred, allowing an award of \$1100 to be given.

FYI – the Office of International Students and Scholars offers a similar award, but our focus is to support and encourage international students within our College/Department(s).

Chemistry

Sean and Rebecca Peebles and students working in their research group presented their research at the annual international symposium on molecular spectroscopy in Columbus, Ohio. They will participate in this meeting this coming June. Sean and Rebecca also serve as judges for the Rao Prize at this symposium.

Radu Semeniuc is planning to present his research this summer at the international symposium on macrocyclic and supramolecular chemistry in London.

Jon Blitz has a long standing and successful collaborative research program that includes researchers at the Institute for Surface Chemistry in Ukraine.

Economics

The Department of Economics will have a Study Abroad program in Barbados in June 2011. This Study Abroad also occurred in 2010. This Study Abroad focuses on the history, culture, and economy of Barbados. Student field trips include the Central Bank, Parliament, public and private schools, the national tv and radio stations, a sugar factory and museum, and the world's oldest rum distillery. The students also attend two dinner shows and take an island tour with a snorkeling trip.

An additional Study Abroad program is being planned for study in Egypt. We are hoping to offer this opportunity to students in 2012.

Geology-Geography

Betty Smith has established a student travel award for students to pursue geographic research in Ecuador. The award winner will receive funding to defray travel expenses and will be announced shortly. Betty will accompany the student and other interested parties to Ecuador this summer to conduct research.

John Stimac and Lisa New Freeland will run a study abroad trip to the Mediterranean (Turkey and Greece) this summer. Egypt was on the original itinerary but was dropped due to political instability. The course deals with sociological/geographical/geological themes (focus on physical and social Landscapes).

Jim Davis and Dave Viertel offered a study abroad course to Central Europe (Germany, Czech Republic and Austria) but the course didn't fill. They hope to offer it again in the future. A possible change in the future is to bring Craig Eckert from Soc/Ant aboard as a co-director and give the course a greater focus on Holocaust sites.

Craig Chesner applied for a National Geographic Society grant to conduct research on the Toba Volcano and Lake (caldera) in Sumatra, Indonesia. He hopes to hear in the next month whether the grant will be funded or not.

At a curricular level, the geography program offers an International Studies concentration for students interested in the regional side of the discipline. This is an integrative concentration in that it includes course options for other disciplines in the College of Sciences and College of Arts and Humanities.

Nursing

Our courses are saturated with content that pertains to multicultural diversity. In the introductory nursing course the students are introduced to the International Council of Nurses, a global organization that promotes international health concerns and issues associated with diverse populations. This group explores the differences and the commonalities of all people. Discussion revolves around questions of how will this impact diverse populations or the lifespan of populations served.

Political Science

Aside from teaching courses on international relations and comparative politics, the following events/activities will take place this semester:

- 1) Ryan Hendrickson is giving an invited talk on war powers
- 2) Steve Roper is the editor of the international journal "Human Rights Review"
- 3) Lilian Barria and Ryan Hendrickson both serve as book review editors for journals with an international focus (Barria, Human Rights Review -- and Hendrickson, Journal of Slavic Military Studies.
- 4) One faculty member and two students will present work at the International Studies, Midwest Conference.
- 5) We have three students engaged in study abroad or preparing for a study abroad experience.
- 6) We have begun establishing a scholarship to assist students with studying abroad.

Sociology-Anthropology

1. Dr. Benedict's (S/A) Study Abroad will take place (in conjunction with Dr. Michael Havey) in May and June in Maastricht, The Netherlands. This will be at least the 4th consecutive year that this trip has "made."
2. A new Study Abroad trip will begin this May/June with Dr. Lisa New Freeland (S/A) and Dr. John Stimac taking students to Greece and Turkey. The current unrest and instability in Egypt resulted in their cancelation of that scheduled stop in their itinerary.
3. Dr. Eckert (S/A) is working with Dr. Stephen Canfield (FLG) to team-teach a Study Abroad trip to Paris in which students will study French language and culture and learn about Nazi treatment of the Jews in Paris during the Nazi occupation, both by the Nazis and French collaborators.
4. Dr. Vernon Woodley (from St. Kitts in the US Virgin Islands) will be joining the S/A faculty as an Assistant Professor this Fall 2011

Honors College | Points discussed at IEC meeting on Friday, 4 March 2011

- Current enrollment of international students in the Honors College: 4 (out of 535 total; 7.48%);
- Have already discussed with Dean Augustine and Mr. Vicker the possibility of employing international students the first week of classes in order that they qualify for Social Security Numbers. When this idea was presented to the Honors Council, they were enthusiastic about it;
- Have attempted to increase Honors Students enrollment in National Students Exchange and Study Abroad in order to increase cultural diversity awareness among Honor Students;
- Discussed the importance of study abroad and exposure to different cultures based on Harvard Business Review article (<http://hbr.org/2010/09/be-a-better-manager-live-abroad/ar/1>) on how study abroad and cultural exposure increased critical thinking skills;
- Informed the council that 3 of 16 students from this past year's cohort of Presidential Scholars are planning to participate in study abroad this summer or upcoming fall semester;
- Informed that council that I have discussed making incoming international students more aware of the Honors College and programs offered in the college, as well as scholarships offered to qualified entering students;
- Informed the council that I have asked for an Argos Report of international students who meet Honors College qualifications in order of attracting them to the college;
- Have contacted Educational Testing Services, the publishers of the ACT, in order to develop a new option in their Educational Opportunity Service (EOS) program that will allow directed searches, and database downloads, of qualified students taking the ACT at overseas locations;
- Informed the council that the Honors College has been in contact with the person at the University of Evansville who is also the director of the Harlaxton College and its honors program;
- Have also been in contact with a director of the Roosevelt Academy in Middelburg, part of the International Honors College of Utrecht at Middelburg.
- Answered questions concerning where I grew up and traveled (have lived for extended times in Australia, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, Pakistan, Lebanon; taken students on study abroad and research trips to Oman, Kyrgystan, People's Republic of China, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Austria, Poland, and Czech Republic; will also include taking students to Greece and Turkey this summer; have visited about a dozen or two other countries).

Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences

- School of Technology.

Currently has three Chinese students in SOT as a result of an articulation agreement. Dr. Bai is working with them to ensure they have a successful year. Dr. Chadd is doing a study abroad in the spring. Our biggest problem area is still the tuition disparity for online versus traditional delivery modality for international students. This semester we have five graduate students taking EDU 5400 Building Character in Youth in order to receive the tuition break. I see this problem continuing due to internal and external issues.

- School of FCS

Each summer we have the Italian professors here teaching food and wine classes. We have student in Italy each semester. Students are now completing internships at Apicius in Italy.

- School of Business

Visiting Scholar in the fall semester. Dr. Laura Lucia Palacios, Assistant Professor in the Department of Business Management, from the University of Zaragoza in Spain, has served as a visiting professor in the School of Business at Eastern Illinois University during the Fall 2010 semester. During her time here, she has worked on research projects with the following School of Business faculty: Dr. David Boggs, Assistant Professor of Management, Dr. Richard Flight, Assistant Professor of Marketing, and Dr. Marko Grunhagen, Lumpkin Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship.

The International Business Club attended the International Business Conference in St. Louis on November 17, 2010. The students who attended the conference benefited from hearing about current topics that affect the business world from accomplished professionals. The School of Business is proud to offer its students integrative learning opportunities like these to prepare them for the global business environment. The Club also hosts an international lunch, where students and faculty bring a dish to share reflective of their heritage and culture.

The School of Business and the faculty meet regularly to discuss activities and develop a plan of action for the next several years.

The School has been successful in bringing in external funding to support international initiatives, including support of students for study abroad trips.