

# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2009

**Members Present:** Dr. Ronan Bernas, Dr. Stephen Canfield, Dr. Marilyn Coles, Dr. Marko Grúnhagen, Dr. Tesa Leonce, Dr. Ralph Marshall, Dr. Regina Nganga, Angie Norris, Shaukat Sheikh, Dr. Richard Sylvia, Dr. Deborah Woodley, Jenn Yap

**Ex-Officio present:** Dr. Robert Augustine, Ms. Pam Collins, Ms. Marilyn Holmes, Ms. Sara Schmidt, Ms. Sue Songer, Ms. Wendy Williamson

**Invited Guests present:** Mr. Farhan Aziz, Ms. Marilyn Thomas

**Presenters and Guests:** Miranda Ambuske, Dr. Bonnie Irwin, Stephani Pescitelli

**I. Welcome and Introductions:** Dr. Coles

**II. Approval of the October 2, 2009, minutes:** motion: Dr. Grúnhagen; second: Dr. Sylvia; accepted by acclamation.

### **III. Presentation: Miranda Ambuske: International Student Satisfaction Survey.**

As part of her internship at the OISS, Ms. Ambuske has conducted a survey of the international students to determine the issues they are facing on campus. Survey methods included online surveys and focus groups, advertised with personal visits and through social networking sites. In addition to the surveys, Ms. Ambuske has traveled to Champaign international food stores and has discussed concerns and possible solutions with Jody Horn and Mark Hudson. Dining services is amenable to improving provision of international foods; some of their concerns included whether or not the foods provided would actually be consumed and the need to work within the constraints of their existing supplier contracts. Ambuske reviewed her online survey which gathered the following information: origin, class level, what brought them to EIU, dietary concerns, and their biggest challenge at EIU. One suggestion was to conduct the focus groups first and then conduct the survey; Ambuske agreed but responded that it was difficult to get students to attend the focus groups even in the current methodology's timeline. Even though requested, she only received one RSVP for all of the focus groups offered. Another suggestion was to go to the individual associations' meetings. No funds were available for the survey; if funds were available, could offer a raffle prize.

One repeated response was the desire for halal meat, meat which is specially prepared to meet Muslim food standards. The owner of World Harvest offered to place an order with his suppliers and provide it at near cost. One suggested survey clarifications: "dietary concerns" may imply "diet" and not cultural habits or traditions. Ms. Songer did clarify that the survey was originally designed as a student satisfaction survey and not merely a dining satisfaction survey, and that additional data should be collected. It was suggested that it might prove

more feasible to work on stocking Dining Service's convenience stores rather than pressing the prepared food services option: Euro-mart, a Champaign business, would be willing to provide stock that would stay in the convenience stores. Ambuske stated that she did get the impression that international students were resigned to not getting their home foods and routinely moved off-campus to be able to cook for themselves. Another suggestion was to provide an "International kitchen" so that students could cook for themselves. Mr. Sheikh suggested that biryani, a rice-based side dish, would be a fairly simple option to provide in the food service areas and that halal meat could be procured from local Arthur farmers and can be eaten by anyone. He has spoken with Kathy Rhodes at Pantera dining and they are discussing hosting an Eastern Indian/Pakistani-themed night, procuring their supplies from Champaign. Ms. Ambuske has spoken with Western Illinois University, which has an International House, and is planning to discuss these issues with their staff. Ms. Songer asked if members would forward her their concerns and ideas for improvement. Ambuske asked the members to contact her at [mtambuske@eiu.edu](mailto:mtambuske@eiu.edu) if they have any ideas or concerns.

**IV. Presentation: Integrative Learning, Dr. Bonnie Irwin, Dean of the Honors College.** Dr. Irwin presented on the Eastern Integrative Learning Experience (ILE), including the characteristics of integrative learning, which ties new and existing programs together with student reflection and intentionality, applying skills and knowledge gained in one context and applying it to other contexts. She reviewed the accomplishments to date promoting ILE, including the website which is accessible from the Academic Affairs website. Current elements include EIU Reads, Appreciative Advising, General Education and Major/Minor Curricula. This year's EIU Reads selection of "This I Believe" resulted in a ten-fold increase in essay submissions. She described the Presidential Scholars Program, a pilot program designed to promote integrated academic and personal development.

**V. Presentation: CEPS Liaison Report, Dr. Regina Nganga, CEPS.** Postponed to December 4 meeting to allow sufficient time for all presentations and reports.

## **V. Reports**

**A. International Students and Scholars, Ms. Sue Songer, Director, OISS.** Ms. Songer reported on the continuing H1N1 Operational Briefings and the public relations work various groups have been doing regarding H1N1 cases on campus. She also reported on the recent USBT advisors visit: five international administrators came to Eastern to learn how OISS recruits and retains their international students. She notified the committee that Ayaka Hisanaga was recently named the recipient of the Younger Scholarship, a \$17,500 one-year award; this was the first time an international student has been awarded this scholarship. Ms. Songer is currently working on the logistical requirements of the Vijayam Scholarship in honor of the three Indian students who had died in Spring 2009. She reported that Evan McWhirter has returned from a recruitment tour in Latin America where over 1,000 prospective students had attended one of the Costa Rica visits alone. Ms. Holmes reported that AIS's "Sounds of the World Dance" would be held in the Union at 9:00 p.m. that night; activities would include food, dance and a raffle. She also encouraged the members to RSVP for the OISS Holiday Banquet which would be held on December 5 at 5:30 p.m. in the University Union's Grand Ballroom. Finally, she reported that the AIS T-shirt fundraiser has sold seventy-five shirts; proceeds will go to the victims of the Ketsana typhoon.

**B. Study Abroad, Ms. Wendy Williamson, Director, OSA.** Spring 2010 study abroad scholarship applications were reviewed: six were awarded including three \$5,000 awards – the largest awards given to date. One award

was based on merit; awards are usually based on need. Approximately \$10,000 is now available for faculty and staff travel grants; application deadline is February 2 and travel must be conducted by the end of the fiscal year. OSA is currently facing a logistical obstacle with paying partner vendors: according to state law, vendors must sign off on a list of policies. In other areas, vendors are refusing to sign the agreements with EIU, causing the university to lose money by having to select more expensive vendors. To address the new policy, Ms. Williamson is revising six programs so that students pay EIU directly. In addition, Ms. Williamson is working on several new agreements: Tuscania, Italy, for language, art, history, archeology, where students would live with host families; two in London; two in France; Global Links and AFIS, 3<sup>rd</sup>-party program providers; and one in China. A Search Committee is currently conducting phone interviews for a second Coordinator that would primarily focus on marketing and public relations. Ms. Williamson recently presented at the 2009 training program for EducationUSA advisors in Mexico City, Mexico, with representatives from 210 countries. Mr. Aziz reported on his two presentations at NAFSA in Milwaukee, WI.

**C. Graduate School, Dr. Robert Augustine, Dean, Graduate School.** Dr. Augustine notified the committee about the proposed IGP changes.

## **VII. Items to be Acted On**

**A. IPAC name change:** The recent office name change was completed to reflect the change in the office's activities; the group's name change could reflect change in the office's change. There is no inference that "Council" would imply a requirement for faculty election of members to the group. Discussion centered on the brand recognition of the current name and the name change from "committee" to "council". "International education" reflects expansion of activities from incoming and outgoing student education activities to broader integration of internationalization across campus. Dr. Sylvia moved to change the name of the group to the "International Education Council (ICE)," Dr. Canfield seconded the motion. Upon calling the vote, the roll was seven for, three against, motion carried.

**B. Bylaws update.** The proposed changes to the bylaws were reviewed including language regarding faculty member selection and previously-discussed term limits for the Chair and Vice-Chair. Ms. Songer volunteered to research previous meeting minutes for discussion on term limits. Several items were proposed to be changed; a marked-up copy will be emailed to members to and voted on electronically.

## **VIII. Items Pending**

**B. College of Sciences Liaison Report, Drs. Ronan Bernas and Tesa Leonce: December 4, 2009, meeting.**

**C. CBAS Liaison Report, Dr. Marko Gr nzhagen: January 15, 2010 meeting.**

Adjourned: 10:15 a.m.

Next meeting: Friday, December 4, 2009, 3108 Blair Hall.

Recorder: Marcus Ricci, OISS