

# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2009

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

**Ex-Officio present:** Mr. Bill Elliott (for Dr. Robert Augustine), Ms. Marilyn Holmes, Ms. Sara Schmidt, Ms. Sue Songer, Ms. Wendy Williamson

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

**Ex-Officio absent:** Ms. Pam Collins

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

**II. Approval of the November 6, 2009, minutes:** motion to accept by Dr. Grúnhagen; seconded by Dr. Leonce; accepted by acclamation.

**III. Presentations:**

**A. Dr. Nganga, College of Education and Professional Studies Liaison:**

Dr. Nganga had submitted the following three questions to the Department Chairs and received feedback. Overall, the chairs felt that their departments were actively engaged in promoting international education and that they would continue to explore more avenues to foster International Education.

*1. What international initiatives/activities is your department involved in?*

- a. KSS (kinesiology & Sports Studies): They reported that they just had a visiting professor from the University of Winchester as part of an ongoing exchange program; Dr. Jon Oliver would be traveling to Winchester in May of 2010. According to the Chair, this Exchange has increased faculty interest in study abroad programs; another faculty member is meeting with Ms. Williamson to set up a program for the department.
- b. ELE – (Early childhood, Elementary, and Middle level Education: the department has two study abroad programs (Canada and Bahamas). Faculty bring in guest speakers to speak with their classes about international issues. The department has several international faculty and some faculty provide international presentations. Unfortunately, the department does not have the resources to include students in the international presentations.
- c. STG (Student Teaching): the department does participate in the COST program with five students currently student teaching overseas this fall and four in the spring of 2010. Students are encouraged to seek out study abroad opportunities.

- d. SED (Secondary Education & Foundations): the department collaborates with ELE on the Canada study abroad program. It is currently preparing for a study abroad program in China and planning one in Germany. Faculty are integrating an international component into some of their courses. They also use the Adopt-a-Nation Project where students compare schools in other countries with schools in the United States. There are also several international faculty in the department.
- e. HST (Health Studies): Faculty have made international studies part of their curriculum. Several students do internships and take courses in other countries. The department is currently working on a short study abroad or internship to South Africa.
- f. REC (Recreational Administration): a study abroad program is planned for Ireland this coming summer.
- g. SPE(Special Education): one faculty member gave an international presentation this past summer. Faculty participate in the Canada and Bahamas programs. Students participate in the semester-long study abroad.

2. *What concerns does the department have pertaining to international education?*

- a. Teacher education: some concerns were as follows: students entering teacher education must do study abroad during summer before junior year otherwise they extend their program by one semester; junior and senior years are programmed to meet Illinois curriculum standards for certification; the COST program is not open to SPE (special education) majors since other countries are lagging behind the United States in this area and COST can only take up to ten students per year; it is difficult for transfer students to participate in any study abroad program due to conflicts with schedules.
- b. CSD (Counseling & Student Development): this is a graduate-only program so it is a real challenge to incorporate international options as most students have full-time employment; a few faculty have taught abroad in the past; they will explore the possibility of doing something with the CSA program.
- c. EDL (Educational Leadership): a graduate-only program; most students have full-time employment so not really able to do an international program; they have looked into a study abroad program in the past but have not been successful in getting anything started but will continue to look into this.

3. *What is the future of international education from the perspective of your department?* Dean Jackman:

The Department does not have the resources to support study abroad for students but it is discussing this issue with possible donors. It is investigating Virtual International Programs: one student organization is trying to figure out links with international groups and schools and trying to establish connections with faculty and students overseas using electronic methods with the potential for students to even attend overseas classes online.

4. *What can IEC do to assist?* Financial support would be appreciated not only for students but faculty as well. Currently, the college does not have any scholarships for study abroad.

Discussion centered on communication between IEC and the colleges/departments, and the colleges' and departments' needs. Some other schools' Foreign Language programs do have a study abroad requirement, usually accompanied by a stipend (c. \$1,500). The Foreign Language department at EIU does provide three to six \$500 scholarships out of their gift account. However, a mandate would often impose a burden to many students due to finances. Study abroad opportunities are always brought up

to students during advising. University or departmental mandates would also require ADA compliance and required increases in funding. One member's department is working with local school districts to pursue programming that meets the needs of the increased influx of international students, primarily from Latin America.

As far as needs, comments centered on communication and perceptions of transparency. Departments' comments included that the IEC website needs more information about IEC including a members list and selection criteria. The current bylaws should be posted as well as approved minutes. Many issues focused on Study Abroad proposals, including deadlines and selection criteria, as well as the process for transferring credits. One suggestion was a dynamic map of where faculty and students are from and a list of faculty interests so that they could be reached for presentations on international issues.

**B. Drs. Bernas and Leonce, College of Sciences Liaisons:**

The Chemistry Department has a study abroad program in Romania focusing on organic chemistry. The Biology Department has SA programs going to China, the Bahamas and Mexico. The Economics Department has SA programs in Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago, and Mexico. The Geology and Geography Departments have SA programs in Ecuador, Ireland and Scotland and are pursuing future programs in Greece, Turkey and Egypt. The Sociology Department is working on a SA program to Russia.

Other comments were that the chairs want to be involved with the international students and that the departments want to bring in other community groups (host families, Rotary, Habitat for Humanity). Ms. Songer would like to contact those faculty members; Dr. Bernas said that he would provide that information. Drs. Peter Andrews and Godson Obia volunteered to help out international students for trips to Champaign and other places in search of international food stores.

Dr. Bernas stated that the chairs would like additional information about the IEC: what IEC is about; who are the members; a dynamic map of international faculty and students. They would also like the following information added to the IEC website: meeting minutes; member selection criteria; study abroad proposal evaluation criteria (rubric); proposal deadlines in line with Banner; articulation of transfer of credits from study abroad experiences. Dr. John Stimac from Geology had volunteered technical expertise to create the dynamic mapping elements for the website.

Dr. Grúnhagen stated that he had met with the College of Business and Applied Science administrative council on December 2 and would present in January. Ms. Williamson stated that much of the information that the chairs were requesting – faculty-led study abroad proposal criteria and deadlines, faculty research interests and expertise – was already on the Study Abroad website.

**IV. Reports**

**A. International Students and Scholars, Ms. Songer, Director, OISS.** Ms. Songer will be participating in the ICEF North American Recruitment Conference next week to meet with potential student agents. The Distinguished Out-of-State Tuition Rate for those first-time incoming and transfer undergraduate students with a minimum 3.5 GPA (WES standards) will be available in the Fall 2010 semester. The tuition rate would carry through their time at Eastern regardless of their EIU grades. Marilyn Holmes will be recruiting in the Indian Expo and Gulf Expo next semester and Bria Phillips will be recruiting at the Seattle Expo which covers over 10,000 international

students. She thanked those IEC members who attended the Banquet. Ms. Holmes reported that over 137 people attended the OISS Holiday Banquet and that new students would be arriving January 5-6, 2010 and attending orientation on January 7-8.

**B. Study Abroad, Ms. Williamson, Director, OSA.** Ms. Williamson reported that Lisa Ann Brown would be starting her new position as Coordinator; she will focus on public relations, marketing and faculty-led programs and creative ways to market study abroad to students on campus. December 4, 2009, is the deadline for spring break 2010 program applications.

**C. Graduate School, Mr. Elliott, Assistant Dean, Graduate School.** Mr. Elliott commented that the IEC would work with the colleges and departments to provide them any information they might need.

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

**Bylaws update:** Discussion included when items would be posted online and/or distributed to IEC members. Draft meeting minutes and supplemental materials would be emailed to members one week prior to the following meeting and minutes will be posted on the IEC website after approved by the council. Supplemental materials (draft minutes, draft bylaws, proposed IGPs, etc.) would not be posted but would be provided when requested. General language was proposed for Sections I.F. and V.C. and V.D.; Drs. Grúnhagen and Canfield moved and seconded the new language which was accepted by acclamation. Members discussed officer term limitations but came to no resolution and requested that the Dean recommend language on this issue.

#### **VI. Items Pending**

**A. Affiliates:** Members discussed expanding or collapsing the lists of ex officio members, invited guests or adding a new list of affiliates. Potential new areas included student services area (housing, &c.), all deans. It was determined that the current colleges' representatives speak for their Dean. Discussion moved to ways to increase communication/transparency. One suggestion was that college representatives should report back to their Deans. Another suggestion was creating an annual report. One perception was that study abroad program proposal criteria might not be being applied as it is published. One general response was that the criteria might not be understood which could result in a misperception of the usage of different selection criteria. Another comments was that the variety of the council's activities makes it more difficult for people to understand what the IEC does. It was moved by Dr. Grúnhagen to table the members/affiliates discussion for Dean Augustine's review; Dr. Woodley seconded, accepted by acclamation.

**B. College of Business and Applied Sciences Liaison Report, Dr. Marko Grúnhagen: January 15, 2010 meeting.**

**C. College of Arts and Humanities Liaison Report:** Dr. Coles will pursue facilitating the presentation.

Dr. Grúnhagen moved to adjourn; Dr. Woodley seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next meeting: Friday, **January 15, 2009**, 8:30 a.m., 3108 Blair Hall.

Recorder: Marcus Ricci, OISS