

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2010

Members Present: Dr. Ronan Bernas, Dr. Stephen Canfield, Dr. Marilyn Coles, Dr. Marko Grúnhagen, Dr. Tesa Leonce, Dr. Regina Nganga, Dr. Deborah Woodley

Members Absent: Dr. Ralph Marshall, Mr. Shaukat Sheikh, Dr. Richard Sylvia, Ms. Jenn Yap

Ex-Officio present: Dr. Robert Augustine, Ms. Sara Schmidt, Ms. Sue Songer, Jim Traub (for Pam Collins), Ms. Wendy Williamson

Ex-Officio absent: Ms. Marilyn Holmes

Invited Guests present: Mr. Farhan Aziz

Invited Guests absent: Ms. Marilyn Thomas

I. Welcome and Introductions: Dr. Coles

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

III. Presentations:

A. College of Business and Applied Sciences Liaison Report, Dr. Grúnhagen:

Dr. Grúnhagen reviewed the comments he received from the CBAS Administrative Council:

1. Providing international foods would benefit not only the international students but also the domestic students and staff.
2. It is their impression that students do not get sufficient advising on how to approach applying for Study Abroad programs with non-partner institutions, including determining which courses would fit into Eastern Illinois University's curriculum and ensuring easy transfer of credits.
3. The members had concerns regarding the transparency IEC proceedings: council meeting minutes, Study Abroad program fees, SA programs contact hours and proposal approval requirements, the role of council (advisory vs. decision-making) regarding program proposals and scholarship applications.
4. Since President Perry has made internationalism a priority, could there be more institutional support in terms of grants, either internal or external (Federal Title VIB) for faculty to go abroad?
5. Suggest sponsoring events, open to the campus, similar to previous international luncheons.

Members discussed the issues presented. One asked if liaison presentations were intended to give information to the Colleges, get information from the Colleges, or both; Dr. Grúnhagen replied that he did not receive information from the College on what it was doing to promote international education. Dr. Augustine responded that there were no luncheons planned and that when the International Fora were held, attendance was very low for several years and the program was subsequently cancelled.

Regarding “advisory vs. decision-making,” Dr. Augustine stated that all votes by the Council are advisory to the Offices and the Graduate School Dean, not decision-making. It was stated that “transparency” is subjective: it means that information should be available but it does require individuals to take the initiative to look for that information, including on office websites and contacting office personnel. Ms. Songer stated that the luncheons may have been referring to two previous, non-scripted meetings and that the OISS could offer “international coffees” as opposed to a lunch, but the informal events had been very popular.

As far as the SA program proposal approval process was concerned, one requirement was that risk management issues are able to be properly addressed before any proposal is approved. Dr. Woodley commented that Family and Consumer Sciences needs additional help so that their students can integrate SA programming with their accreditation requirements. Dr. Grünhagen opined that it may help to have Ms. Williamson attend a CBAS Administrative Council meeting to respond to the concerns about advising and transparency/communication. She responded that she contacts the department chairs annually to offer her time to discuss SA at their meetings but would be more than willing to contact the CBAS personally. Ms. Songer expressed her thanks to the IEC Scholarship Committee for their work in recommending scholarship recipients. A member suggested that the liaisons provide the Administrative Councils a set of meeting questions at least one week prior to the scheduled council meeting. Other members thought that Administrative Council members might be recalling past issues with SA credit evaluations prior to the time Ms. Williamson took over the program and suggested that Ms. Williamson meet with the department chairs to make them aware of the current status of SA programs and procedures. Dr. Coles stated that she has given Dean Jeffrey Lynch her liaison questions and he plans to send them on to his faculty for their responses.

IV. Reports

A. International Students and Scholars, Ms. Songer, Director, OISS. Ms. Songer reported that fourteen students arrived for the Spring 2010 semester and attended orientation; numbers are low due to the current low marketability of EIU’s international student tuition rate. The new students bring the current international population to 134. She projects the new distinguished student rate will significantly increase the fall numbers. Bria Phillips will be participating in a series of recruitment fairs in Seattle. There are over 10,000 international students in the Seattle area, making it a prime target for attracting transfer students. Marilyn Holmes will be participating in a two-week Middle East recruitment tour in February. Ms. Songer will be participating in the ICEF North American Recruitment Conference next week to meet with potential student agents. She also plans to increase the number of visiting scholars.

A member commented that the new mandate of online classes being paid at overload rate will decrease the number of courses available, negatively impacting off-campus summer students, especially international students that return home or go to other cities in the summer.

B. Study Abroad, Ms. Williamson, Director, OSA. Ms. Williamson reported almost 50% growth over last year at this time. She welcomed Lisa Brown as a new Coordinator; Mr. Aziz would be focusing on advising and office operations while Ms. Brown would be concentrating on marketing and faculty program support. She stated that the office held a retreat on December 23 to create a long-term

implementation plan focusing on three main goals: 600 students going abroad annually by AY2012; become the first choice for Illinois high school students who are interested in study abroad; and enhance study abroad opportunities, integrating the academic and personal development of students. She reported on the new SA “GO!” marketing campaign, targeting local community colleges and high schools. She plans to continue full-campus integration of SA including a social media implementation plan using Facebook, Twitter and Flickr, and a SA Ambassador program with a mandatory service requirement. She is working with Dr. Flick’s Business Marketing class which includes an assignment for writing marketing plans for ten individual SA programs, especially current low-performing programs.

She will be presenting at two conferences. Also, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* contacted her for an article on faculty-led SA programs; there will be a Webchat on the *Chronicle*’s website. Finally, the SA fair will be next Wednesday and she invited the council members to visit the fair.

C. Graduate School, Dr. Augustine, Dean, Graduate School. Dr. Augustine reported on how the university’s current financial situation would affect business travel. Directors making presentations at conferences are being allowed to travel. Recruitment travel will be allowed. Dr. Augustine’s potential travel for the Council of Graduate Schools would be sponsored by that group. He reported Provost Lord’s comment that the SA office always seems to be full of students, reflecting on their ability to provide programming. Dr. Augustine stated that the hard work to get the distinguished tuition rate for new and first-time transfer undergraduate international students should pay off with increased student enrollment.

V. Items to be Acted On

Bylaws update, Dr. Augustine. Dr. Augustine reviewed the current draft of the bylaws and his previous memo stating that officer elections would be held on the last meeting of the Spring Semester and that only members having already completed their first year of any term could be officers. Council members suggested to keep the “note” in the bylaws language and to call the elected positions “Chair” and “Vice Chair.” Dr. Grünhagen moved to accept the language for the section as amended by discussion. Dr. Canfield seconded the motion. After no discussion, the motion was accepted unanimously.

A member asked if there was a need to have equal College representation on the Study Abroad Committee, similar to that of the Scholarship Committee. Ms. Williamson stated that she thought that was a good idea.

VI. Items Pending

A. Affiliates: tabled until next meeting.

B. College of Arts and Humanities Liaison Report - Dr. Coles: scheduled for either February or March.

Dr. Leonce moved to adjourn; Dr. Nganga seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Next meeting: Friday, **February 5, 2009, 8:30 a.m., **2116 Blair Hall Seminar Room****

Recorder: Marcus Ricci, OISS