

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2010

Members present: Dr. Ronan Bernas, Dr. Stephen Canfield, Dr. Marilyn Coles, Dr. Marko Grúnhagen, Ms. Stacey Jaksa, Dr. Tesa Leonce, Dr. Ralph Marshall, Dr. Regina Nganga , Dr. Deborah Woodley, Ms. Jenn Yap

Members absent: Mr. Shaukat Sheikh

Ex-Officio present: Dr. Robert Augustine, Ms. Pam Collins, Ms. Sara Schmidt, Ms. Sue Songer

Ex-Officio absent: Ms. Wendy Williamson

Invited Guests present: Mr. Farhan Aziz, Ms. Lisa Brown, Ms. Marilyn Holmes, Ms. Marilyn Thomas

I. Welcome and Introductions: Dr. Coles

II. Approval of the January 15, 2009, minutes: motion to accept by Dr. Marshall; seconded by Dr. Woodley; accepted by acclamation.

III. Presentation: College of Arts and Humanities Liaison Report – Dr. Coles. Dr. Coles presented the college's department chairs with four questions and collected their responses.

1) In what international initiatives/activities is your department involved?

Art Department: offers the Paris Summer Study Abroad program every even-year summer for the past decade, in conjunction with another EIU academic department – 2010 will be with Foreign Languages.

Philosophy Department: participates in Study Abroad; incorporates education about international religions, etc., in their courses.

English Department: two major short-term study abroad programs: Harlaxton College in Grantham, England, and South Africa, Capetown; have sent several faculty (6) to, semester-long study- and teaching-abroad at Harlaxton; faculty are heavily involved in recruiting students study abroad.

Foreign Languages: many faculty present scholarly papers abroad; 3 this year; expanding language offerings to meet student/faculty needs, e.g., Chinese and Italian; regularly run four Study Abroad programs (Spring Break in Ecuador/Guatemala, Summer in Cordoba, Argentina, Semester and summer internships in Mexico, and Paris; offer 3-6 \$500 Study Abroad Scholarships each year for majors and one for a minor; have adjusted all scholarship aid so that it can be used for Study Abroad; we have received Redden Grants, International Initiative Grants, and Faculty Development grants to develop our curriculum and train our faculty in new ways; and all recent sabbatical projects have included research and development projects abroad.

Theatre Arts: 2 summer study abroad programs offered: one in Ireland and one in Italy (never made). I

Music : not currently participating in any international activities.

2) What concerns do you have regarding international education?

Art Department: some degree options do not lend themselves to study abroad, especially in the junior year; additional Study Abroad (OSA) scholarship funding has been very beneficial.

Philosophy Department: we are worried about the proliferation of programs without any centralized organization; we need to reevaluate the relationship of our majors with Study Abroad.

English Department: the economic feasibility of international education being maintained.

Foreign Languages: little encouragement on the part of programs with international elements to use the expertise and language instruction available from our department for both students and faculty

Theatre Arts: concern for students is cost as with many; parents are always asking about security.

Music : always trying to find new ways to recruit and wishing the economy were different; figure out how to incorporate international education into a music degree.

3) What is the future of international education in your department?

Art Department: the number of students expressing interest for the 2010 Summer Paris program (30) is higher than in 2008 or 2006, allowing for a third faculty member to participate and thus including studio art course offerings, generating greater interest amongst the EIU art majors; we are seeing an increase in art majors investigating and taking advantage of semester long study abroad programs but the numbers are still low, less than 5 per year.

Philosophy Department: we hope to continue to participate in short-term Study Abroad; we would like to see a semester-long Study Abroad program and both a faculty and student exchange program.

English Department: the future looks great -- we have the longest, continuously running short-term program in the university; faculty and students value the opportunity.

Foreign Languages: international education is part and parcel of what we do; if it disappears, we become something very different from what we have worked hard to become.

Theatre Arts: we will continue with current programs but the economy has affected students numbers; would like more faculty interest although 3 of 8 is a good percentage; interest may grow with new faculty hires.

Music: many other pressing issues mean this may not be an important topic in the near future; two possibilities may be a short-term study abroad for music majors and/or a short-term study abroad general course for non-majors; create a music course for a faculty-led program abroad appealing to general student population.

4) How can IEC assist you? What kind of information do you want or need from IEC?

Art Department: determine what is the saturation point of EIU faculty-led Summer programs; assist in finding addition funds for study abroad scholarships administered by OSA.

Philosophy Department: information about marketing, funding for marketing; other Philosophy programs' ways of incorporating international programs into their curriculums, information on how semester-long programs could be made to work; information on how to receive funding for international study

English Department: the OSA and Ms. Williamson have been really helpful; could wish for a much more brief, abbreviated application process for established short-term programs.

Foreign Languages: IEC does an excellent job of disseminating appropriate info, etc. to the campus; doesn't always have the impression that the campus is listening.

Music: several years ago, found the process for taking students abroad rather mystifying and unclear; also felt on their own for marketing to the general student population; assumes this has changed with additional personnel to help the faculty.

IV. Reports

A. International Students and Scholars, Ms. Songer, Director, OISS. Ms. Songer reported on the current status on the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program that allows current and graduated students to work in the United States in their field, and on the 17-month extension available for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) graduates. The office will be adding a separate OPT webpage to the website. She also reported that they would be working with the OSA on offering the Spring Awards Banquet on Tuesday, April 13, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom. She shared information on the current number of I-20s issued: 33 (19

undergraduate, 14 graduate) versus 15 in 2009 (9 undergraduate, 6 graduate). Marcus Ricci reviewed the updated website for the OISS, including information on the Undergraduate International Excellence Award and the completely revamped IEC webpage. Ms. Holmes gave some highlights of her recruiting trip to India and the Gulf area. She went to several schools and sites in each of seven different cities, meeting 200-300 students at each site. In addition, she met with two current students' families. Ms. Songer reported that a anniversary memorial was being planned for the three Indian students who were killed in a car accident last March.

Council members discussed the potential benefits that may result from the tuition reduction for new international undergraduates with a 3.5 GPA and the slightly reduced tuition for international graduate students. They also discussed the potential benefits and past history of offering an introductory semester- or year-long pre-degree program versus the costs, and if it was possible to reduce the lag time between recruitment trips and the expected increase in enrollment generated from that trip. It was commented that recruitment costs for trips, literature, merchandise, staff time, etc., should be viewed as an investment, not as merely an expense, and suggested that OISS work with EIU alumni for recruitment.

B. Study Abroad, Ms. Brown and Mr. Aziz, Coordinators, OSA. Ms. Brown reported that Ms. Williamson presented "Internationalize your Institution through Faculty" at the AIEA Conference. Ms. Williamson has been gathering information on internationalizing the campus and she submitted a report to the Provost and the Dean earlier this week. 347 students studied abroad this year, up from 265 last year. As of now, four programs have not made their minimum enrollment: Diversity of Schools and Societies in China; Subtropical Marine Biology; Nation Building in the New South Africa; and Sport, Tourism and Recreation in Ireland. Three programs that did not make their minimums last year are going this year: Explore Barbados, Summer Archaeology in Belgium, and The Good Life in Italy. In addition, some new programs are also going: Environmental Biology and Trans-National Management in Mexico, Discovery in China, and Business Study Abroad in Panama. Political Science has started a new "outside experience" requirement for majors which can be met through an internship, study abroad, or the national student exchange.

C. Graduate School, Dr. Augustine, Dean, Graduate School. Dr. Augustine commented on the increase in students involved in study abroad and reviewed the report that Ms. Williamson prepared. He categorized the departments' international activity as either "highly internationalized," "moderately internationalized" or "slightly internationalized." The council discussed the "siloed curriculum" situation and whether it would be more fruitful to target efforts to increase involvement on the "moderate" or "slight" category.

IV. Items to be Acted On – none.

V. Items Pending

A. Affiliates, Ms. Songer – tabled for April meeting.

Dr. Woodley moved to adjourn; Dr. Canfield seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Next IEC meeting: Friday, **April 2, 2009, 8:30 a.m., **3108 Blair Hall Conference Room****

Recorder: Marcus Ricci, OISS