

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2010

Members present: Dr. Ronan Bernas, Dr. David Boggs, Dr. Stephen Canfield, Dr. Marilyn Coles, Ms. Stacey Jaksa, Dr. Tesa Leonce, Dr. Dejan Magoc, Dr. Ralph Marshall, Dr. Linda Simpson, Mr. Shaukat Sheikh, Dr. Richard Sylvia

Members absent: Ms. Jenn Yap

Ex-Officio present: Dr. Robert Augustine, Ms. Sara Schmidt

Ex-Officio absent: Ms. Pam Collins, Ms. Marilyn Holmes (for Ms. Sue Songer), Ms. Wendy Williamson

Invited Guests present: Ms. Lisa Brown, Dr. Marko Grúnhagen, Dr. Blair Lord, Dr. Laura Lucia Palacios, Ms. Marilyn Thomas, Dr. Yiping Wang

Pre-meeting International Guest Reception: Dr. Laura Lucia Palacios (Universidad de Zaragoza), Dr. Yiping Wang (Zhejiang Forestry University): Dr. Grúnhagen introduced his visiting research partner, Dr. Palacios. They discussed her research at EIU and the benefits of the Visiting Scholar program for both the host and visiting institution. Dr. Wang gave a presentation on his research with his partner, Dr. Zhiwei Lui of the Biological Sciences Department.

I. Welcome and Introductions, Dr. Coles

II. Approval of the October 1, 2010, minutes, Dr. Coles

Motion was made by Dr. Marshall to accept the minutes; seconded by Dr. Boggs; accepted by acclamation.

III. Reports

A. International Students and Scholars, Ms. Thomas (Admissions Specialist, OISS). Ms. Thomas reported that Ms. Holmes was attending the NAFSA Region V conference in Detroit, MI. reviewed the admissions statistics for the upcoming Spring 2011 semester, as compared to this time last year: 286 applications vs. 127; 123 admitted vs. 33; and 94 I-20s issued vs. 23. She gave detail on both graduate and undergraduate admissions. Ms. Thomas also reviewed the activity of the IEC Scholarship Committee. Four undergraduate students and nineteen graduate students were awarded the International Student Scholarship which allows these students to pay the equivalent of the in-state tuition rate on minimum full-time enrollment.

B. Study Abroad, Ms. Brown (Coordinator, OSA). Ms. Brown reported that Mr. Aziz and Ms. Williamson were presenting at the NAFSA Region V conference in Detroit, MI. Ms. Brown took a university business trip to the Netherlands and Germany last week. In the Netherlands, her purpose was to attend the Board of Directors meeting for the Middelburg Center for Trans-Atlantic Studies. She was pleased to see the changes in curriculum that have occurred due to MCTS's partnership with Roosevelt College: students now have a wide array of classes from which to choose, and the offerings are announced well in advance, which will hopefully curb some of the marketing difficulty our office has had with this program in the past. Her purpose in Germany was to visit Universität Würzburg as a possible location for a future exchange program. She was impressed by the quality of the program and believes it could fill in the gaps currently left by our other German exchange partner, the University of Lüneburg. Students can only study at Lüneburg in the spring due to the German academic calendar, while Würzburg also offers a fall session that matches the North American calendar. In addition, Würzburg rarely if ever cancels their "German as a Foreign Language" classes, which is sometimes a problem at Lüneburg. The city is a manageable size with 130,000 people,

30,000 of which are students, leading to a low cost of living. Ms. Williamson will be pursuing a new exchange agreement with this university. The SA office recently awarded \$25,000 worth of scholarships to students studying abroad in the Spring semester, including Spring Break programs. Ms. Brown and Kelly Kawa, SA graduate assistant, will be attending Lake Land College's Study Abroad Fair next week to promote EIU's faculty-led programs.

C. Graduate School, Dr. Augustine (Dean, Graduate School). Dr. Augustine reported that he is currently searching for an Interim Director to serve as a temporary replacement for Sue Songer who continues her extended medical leave. He has received approval from the Provost for the search and hopes to have someone in the position by the beginning of the Spring 2011 semester. He reported that the program has been invited to apply for the Senator Paul Simon Award for Internationalization. Dr. Augustine presented on the various ways faculty could engage in international collaborative projects with other faculty and institutions, including Visiting Scholar Agreements, Articulation Agreements for undergraduate exchanges, and graduate exchanges. This presentation, as well as the template for the Visiting Scholar Agreement, is available on the IEC website. There will be students enrolled in new undergraduate and graduate exchange programs this spring semester.

Dr. Augustine stated that he was very pleased with the Spring 2011 admission numbers and mentioned that it took three attempts by the IEC to finally get the reduced tuition rate for distinguished undergraduate international students approved. This success then became the initiative for the university's current pursuit to offer in-state tuition rates to applicants from adjacent states.

Dr. Boggs inquired if general information regarding financial aid for Study Abroad courses was available. Ms. Brown stated that she and Jenny Stout from the Financial Aid office had created a FAQ sheet. Both Ms. Jaksa and Dr. Leonce reported personal or second-hand knowledge about the confusion and difficulties encountered with seeking financial aid for studying abroad. Dr. Boggs asked if there were any other types of financial support available for faculty to study abroad. Dr. Augustine answered that Dean Hanner of the College of Sciences administers her College Internationalization Fund. He said that he would discuss this subject with the Deans' Council.

IV. Items to be Acted On

A. Presentation Proposal: February – Deans Hanner and Irwin; March – Deans Izadi and Jackman. Dr. Coles offered the proposal to have the Deans present at the February and March IEC meetings. Dean Stimac would also be invited to present at one of the two meetings. An invitation would be sent from Dr. Augustine and the IEC college representatives. The proposal was accepted by acclamation.

B. IEC Liaisons: selection of members. Dr. Coles requested to table this item due to the lateness of the hour; it was agreed to table it until the December meeting.

Ms. Jaksa reported that this would be her last IEC meeting in her term as IEC representative and thanked the members for the positive experience.

Dr. Canfield moved to adjourn; Dr. Leonce seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Next IEC meeting: Friday, December 3, 2010, 8:30 a.m., **3108 Blair Hall Conference Room**

Next IEC Executive Committee meeting: Friday, November 12, 2010, 8:30 a.m., Dr. Augustine's office

Recorder: Marcus Ricci, OISS