

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2011

Members present: Dr. Stephen Canfield, Dr. Marilyn Coles, Dr. David Boggs, Dr. Dejan Magoc, Dr. Lania Knight, Dr. Eric Bollinger, Dr. Ryan Hendrickson.

Members absent: Dr. Dan Carter, Dr. Jaquelyn Frank.

Ex-Officio present: Dr. Robert Augustine, Dr. Pam Collins, Ms. Sara Schmidt, Ms. Wendy Williamson, Kevin Vicker.

Ex-Officio absent:

Invited Guests present: Mr. Jim Crawley, Provost Blair Lord, Ms. Aimee Romack, Ms. Nancy Meese, Ms. Marilyn Thomas, Ms. Wendy Williams, Ms. Sara Boro, Ms. Kelly Holland, Mr. Bill Elliott.

I. Welcome, Dr. Magoc

II. Approval of the Minutes

This will take place at the January meeting.

III. ELS Presentation:

Jim Crawley discussed possibilities of having an ELS program at Eastern. There are 57 ELS Centers in North America with 4,500 + students. The ELS Program has 12 levels of instruction with 120 hours per level. Students must pass each level and may retake tests up to 3 times. ELS Centers work with overseas ELS Centers and United States educational institutions. Students learn more than English, such as being successful in the classroom at ELS. ELS staffing consist of Center director, Academic director, Registrar, International Student Advisor, College Advisor and Teachers.

Eastern currently has an agreement with ELS and 580 schools are involved this program. One advantage of the ELS program is a searchable profile of students. They can screen applications for the University, for example 2.5 GPA or higher, and assist arranging overseas meetings. ELS have a variety of schools who participate, all accredited schools and some trade schools. The schools accept the ELS levels in place of TOEFL. GMAT/GRE materials would be required but deferred.

ELS is looking to partnership with a host institution which offers a good geographic location to draw students to the area, facilities, housing, and community host families. Host families would receive stipends (a background check would be required). The cost of tuition is \$1,700 per level. Instructor qualifications are NTESIL experience or related degrees. Class size is around 15-20 students.

Dr. Coles asked if ELS is interested in a location such as EIU. Dean Augustine responded yes because there is no center in downstate Illinois. It would be less costly to locate here rather than at Bloomington or University of Illinois. The Lake Land Community College location is also an advantage because of the access to students who would like to attend a Community College first. Dr. Dan Carter asked if we have unused facilities on campus. Dean Augustine responded yes, 8 floors of a residential hall are empty which would be ideal. The students would not need transportation since its right by the Advisement Center and close to the International Office. Do we have English support for the students transiting into EIU form ELS? Kevin will follow up with similar universities that have the ELS program to see what they do, who their competition is, and if they bring in higher quality students? Ms. Wendy Williamson suggested bringing in a competitor, such as Kaplan to compare before making a decision. Dr. Dejan Magoc was concerned about how much it cost, \$13,000, for students to pay for the language course. Kevin stated the cost for 4 weeks was \$1,700. He also suggested EIU to offer English as a second language to recruit international students. Dean Augustine said this did not work in the past. It would cost the students more than \$13,000 and the economy is too poor.

Marilyn Thomas said we have 2 coop agreements, one with ELS and one with Kaplan. Let's bring Kaplan in. Sara Schmidt said the Kaplan website stated they did not require their teachers to hold masters degrees. Can we? Dr. Stephen Canfield

stated there are other programs with certificates and credentials where a masters degree is not required, and these are excellent programs. Dr. David Boggs stated that he would like to see not more than 50% students come from one country.

IV. Reports

This will be reported at the January meeting.

V. Items to be Acted On

Marilyn Thomas presented a CESL Program proposal. From the SIU campus, we could recruit students from the CESL program. This program would allow us to recruit from their English program and accept the program qualifications in place of TOEFL or ELS requirement. Dean Augustine said all voting members will vote electronically. The deadline for electronic vote is next Friday, December 9. The Council for Graduate Studies would have to approve this after the IEC member's approval. Voting electronically will allow us to get the proposal on CGA's agenda as well. We will pick up with the remaining portions of the meeting agenda and voting at the next meeting on January 13, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Recorder: Aimee Romack and Nancy Meese, International Student and Scholar Office.