

## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

### Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2011

**Members present:** Dr. Ronan Bernas, Dr. David Boggs, Dr. Stephen Canfield, Dr. Marilyn Coles, Dr. Tesa Leonce, Dr. Dejan Magoc, Dr. Linda Simpson

**Members absent:** Mr. Shaukat Sheikh, Dr. Richard Sylvia, Dr. Ralph Marshall

**Ex-Officio present:** Dr. Robert Augustine, Mr. Kevin Vicker

**Ex-Officio absent:** Ms. Pam Collins, Ms. Sara Schmidt, Ms. Wendy Williamson

**Invited Guests present:** Mr. Farhan Aziz; Ms. Lisa Brown; Ms. Marilyn Holmes; Dean Bonnie Irwin, College of Arts and Humanities (CAH), Dean Diane Jackman, College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS)

#### I. Welcome, Dr. Coles

#### II. College Dean Presentations

##### A. Dr. Bonnie Irwin, College of Arts and Humanities (CAH)

Study Abroad: Several departments in the college have sponsored summer faculty-led study abroad programs, many of which are long standing: History (Belgium), English and History (Harlaxton, England), English (South Africa), Art History and Foreign Languages (Paris), Philosophy (Italy), Theatre (Ireland), Communication Studies (Australia and New Zealand). In addition, faculty from English, History, Journalism, and Art History have taught at Harlaxton during the academic year. Dr. Canfield is working with Wendy Williamson on screening programs that can include foreign language study as well as coursework in English. Dr. Lee (History) has established several contacts in Japan and South Korea. Communication Studies is working to establish a second study abroad program in Guatemala. Dr. Tidwell is in discussions with Alisdair Spark from Winchester, England, about a journalism exchange. Dr. Ochwa-Echel (AFR) is working to establish a study abroad program in South Africa.

In the area of concerns, recruitment remains the biggest challenge. The large number of faculty-led programs and increasing numbers of one-way exchanges lead the faculty to feel they must put forth more and more time and energy in recruiting. The Harlaxton academic year program is in danger if it cannot recruit larger numbers of student to participate. Many faculty in the college (and the dean) value foreign language education and would like to see increased numbers of students incorporating language study in their curriculum abroad. Funding remains a challenge for students, despite healthy increases in scholarship funds to support study abroad. Oftentimes, students find that they need to enroll in courses other than those they have had approved. They do not always inform their chairs and advisors of the change until after they return.

The college continues to internationalize its curriculum, faculty and students. The college hosts many interdisciplinary minors with courses that address international issues: Latin American Studies, Asian Studies, Africana Studies. In addition, many majors include globally oriented classes. In Art History, Dr. Peterson has recently been accepted in the Summer 2011: India Seminar sponsored by the ASIANetwork Faculty Enhancement Program. Many CAH faculty (and their dean) would like to see more of our students embark on serious foreign language study. Many of the CAH faculty search pools contain international applicants. English, Foreign Languages, Communications, Art, Philosophy, History and, of course, African American Studies include faculty of international origin. There are still a number of contractual hurdles, housing challenges, and approval process hurdles that must be overcome to hire international faculty, creating difficulties for programs that are trying to diversify staff. All of the CAH departments welcome international students and many would like to see more. Faculty members do not know how to help with recruitment of international students, though they are willing to help. One department suggests we package employment in housing/food services so that it could be offered as financial assistance to international graduate students prior to

their arrival so that they could meet the financial requirements to attend. It would in essence be a way to fund assistantships with employment.

Many faculty in the college travel abroad to conduct and present research and to participate in creative activity, including in Art, English, History, Philosophy and many others. Co-curricularly, CAH faculty are heavily involved in the various heritage months. In March, the Center for Translational Humanities, in conjunction with the Foreign Languages department, will be screening the Linguists, a documentary film about the preservation of dying languages around the world. The recent CTH speaker, activist and photographer Paola Gianturco, presented in Doudna and Tarble to healthy audiences about her documenting of women's lives and challenges across the globe. Both the Tarble Arts Center and Doudna Fine Arts Center endeavor to include international performers and artists in their programs. The Theatre Department is looking into participation in the Fringe Theatre Festival in Scotland.

Dr. Augustine commented that the Office of Study Abroad's "Fast Facts" shows that the CAH had the highest number of students participating of any college in 2009-2010, the education major had the highest number participating of any major, that 216 students participated in faculty-led programs and that Italy was the #1 destination. All of this led to EIU being the #1 public university in terms of study abroad activities in Illinois last year.

Regarding the Harlaxton year-long program, the host university is saying that EIU is not bringing enough students. There is a concern among EIU students about cost of the program as well as the loss of work income while the students are away from their jobs. Members discussed whether or not there are too many study abroad programs competing for a limited number of students versus the belief in allowing all interested faculty the opportunity to propose their own program. Rotation of programs was also discussed, allowing a more diverse pool of programs. However, loss of momentum was also a concern, if programs were not offered every year. Dr. Irwin stated that recruitment is everyone's job, across the university, within the OSA, and faculty. Ms. Brown offered the services of the OSA to faculty, in the context of creating and distributing fliers, posting announcements on Facebook and Twitter, etc. Upon inquiry, Dr. Irwin stated that most enrollment is for course-specific programs over general programs, unless the general program provides senior seminar credits. Upon inquiry, she also stated that CAH has issues finding EIU students to participate in exchange programs. Dr. Augustine opined that it takes a faculty advocate to promote exchange programs. Upon inquiry, Ms. Brown stated that the typical size of faculty-led programs is from 4-7 students; the typical

#### **B. Dr. Diane Jackman, College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS)**

The main study abroad programs in CEPS are geared towards teacher education: Toronto for Teachers and the Andros Islands programs. The major, however, has very little flexibility due to the state's mandates on its curriculum. Short-term study abroad programs include a secondary education program to China which had to decrease its trip duration. There are twelve German schools waiting for EIU students to participate in the Germany study abroad program. The Ireland Recreation Administration program has a senior seminar option although the program cost led it not to be implemented. The first two years are the most flexible time for education students to fit study abroad into their schedule. The Consortium for Overseas Student Teaching (COST) program accepts ten students per year out of fifty to sixty applicants. Study Away is a domestic exchange program in which 9-10 EIU students go to El Paso, Texas. In the area of faculty exchange, Dr. Tony Oliver of Kinesiology and Sports Studies (KSS) is working on a grant with former exchange faculty member Dr. Yassein (Yaz) El-Hakim of the University of Winchester, England, to create a ten-student exchange program between the two universities. The college is working on a faculty exchange program with a university in Serbia. A member of the KSS faculty has been named to an international conference board.

Dr. Jackman stated that the college's focus is often on multiculturalism, if not always internationalism or globalism, ensuring that student teachers have exposure to dealing with English-language learners, and building this aspect into the curriculum within a two-year timeframe. Short-term study abroad programs work well; long-term programs do not unless they involve a student teaching component. Dr. Augustine opined that EIU faculty should invite a international

colleague to come to EIU as a Visiting Scholar. Dr. Magoc stated that Health Studies is pursuing a faculty-led study abroad program as well as inviting a Visiting Scholar in spring of 2012 and that the Serbian university he is working with has great contacts with other local universities they could capitalize on. Dr. Leonce stated that Dean Hanner has a Study Abroad Initiative Grant in the College of Sciences and that maybe a similar program could work well in other colleges. Dean Irwin stated she would be interested in that but would need to look at the colleges overall slate of programs being offered. Discussed ensued about the relative merits of “protecting” long-standing study abroad programs or continuing to promote full-scale competition between new and continuing programs, general increasing of overall program capacity and rotating programs to allow alternation of offerings. Dean Jackman opined that, if the winter intersession break were longer, short-term programs could be offered then. Also, additional summer sessions would be helpful.

### **III. Approval of the January 14, 2011, minutes, Dr. Coles.**

Motion was made by Dr. Simpson to accept the minutes; seconded by Dr. Canfield; accepted by acclamation.

### **IV. Reports**

**A. International Students and Scholars, Mr. Vicker (Interim Director, OISS).** Mr. Vicker reviewed the fall and spring student application and enrollment numbers. There are currently 141 international students enrolled this semester, the top four three countries of origin are India, Nigeria, and China. The Family Friends student program has been filled; the Conversation Partners program is still looking for campus partners for international students. Mr. Vicker is currently working with other campus offices to integrate and maximize some orientation functions. Ms. Holmes is participating in a multi-country student recruitment trip – Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, China – if any IEC members have any contacts for her to visit. She will be meeting with 2009 Global Ambassador Tian Lee. Bria Phillips, OISS Graduate Assistant, has been making improvements to the OISS website, including the IEC webpage. Mr. Vicker has written an online student assessment for current international students to provide feedback to the staff. Upon inquiry, he responded that the gap in the number of student applicants issued I-20s and the number of student arrivals is primarily due to applicants being denied visas or applicants selecting another school to attend from the multiple of schools to which they were accepted. The addition of a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) page to the OISS website – combining the most-asked questions and most-requested information from multiple webpages onto one page – would be a very helpful addition to prospective students. Dr. Augustine commented that it would be great to be able to get a world map on the university’s website homepage, preferably highlighting those countries from which students and scholars were coming.

**B. Study Abroad, Mr. Aziz (Coordinator, OSA).** The office has received 145 study abroad applications. The faculty-led program application deadline was extended from February 2 to February 4, 2011. The deadline for the summer independent study and fall faculty-led programs is March 1, 2011. The study abroad scholarship deadline is February 4, 2011. Ms. Williamson is currently travelling abroad and will return February 7, 2011.

**C. Dean’s Report.** Dean Augustine reported that Andrew Malsey, an EIU study abroad participant, was the subject of a feature article in the January/February issue of the International Educator. In addition, Ms. Williamson has had four articles published in The Chronicle of Higher Education this year. On February 18, 2011, the Ahn Trio will be performing at the Doudna FAC as part of a fundraising event for the Global Ambassador Plaza. Vice-President Bill Weber, Dr. Marilyn Coles, the Plaza designer and forty others will be invited to attend. Dr. Augustine is working on the 2011 Global Ambassador Program; they are searching for three more candidates. The program will be held during the last week of September, 2011. He welcomed Kevin Vicker as the Interim Chair of the OISS.

**VI. Items Pending**

**A. Upcoming IEC Presentations:**

1. March 4, 2011: Interim Dean Mahyar Izadi, LCBAS  
Dean Mary Anne Hanner, College of Sciences  
Dean John Stimac, Honors College
2. April 1, 2011: Kelly Miller, Housing  
Jody Horn, Dining

Dr. Leonce moved to adjourn; Dr. Canfield seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next IEC meeting: March 4, 2011, 8:30 a.m., 3108 Blair Hall Conference Room

Next IEC Executive Committee meetings: February 25, 8:30 a.m., Dr. Augustine's office

Recorder: Marcus Ricci, OISS

UNAPPROVED