

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2012

Members present: Dr. Marilyn Coles, Dr. David Boggs, Dr. Dejan Magoc, Dr. Eric Bollinger, Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Dr. Jacquelyn Frank, Dr. Dan Carter, Ms Sara Boro

Members absent: Dr. Canfield, Dr. Lania Knight,

Ex-Officio present: Dr. Robert Augustine, Ms. Wendy Williamson, Kevin Vicker.

Ex-Officio absent: Dr. Sara Schmidt, Dr. Pam Collins

Invited Guests present: Ms. Kelly Holland, Ms. Aimee Romack, Ms. Nancy Meese.

I. Welcome, Dr. Magoc

II. Approval of January Minutes

Motion for February Minutes approval was made by Dr. Carter and second by Dr. Bollinger and approved.

III. Reports

Kevin reported he and Marilyn Holmes visited two English Language centers. The ELS Center in Indianapolis which has approximately 200 students. About 75% of the student population was Saudi Arabian. Each class consisted of 18-10 students. The Language Company in South Bend, Indiana had classes of 10-12 students in dorm room size classes. Most instructors were young and most had experienced English oversea training. TLC company scheduled classes 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Language Company also offered GMAT and MBA courses as well as Levels 1-9. They are reviewing the APL level and re-doing the curriculum. Length of the sessions is 12 weeks. The Language Company was honest about the challenges of Saudi students. Other centers have less Saudi populations. Kevin estimates an English Language center at Eastern would have 50-60% Saudi population.

The Language Company would fit well at EIU with the 10-12 student classes. The TLC center also scheduled a whole calendar of outings for their students similar the outings provided for International students at EIU. They would work with us in planning events for students. Kevin was impressed with TLC. To have a center at EIU, 15-16 classrooms would be need. One or two floors of a residents' hall would be enough space for a Language Center.

Dr. Bollinger asked why the ELS Center was not as impressive as the TLC center. Kevin stated the ELS Center was not willing to commit to us, and he did not feel as comfortable with the center. Kevin asked the IEC's thought about moving forward with this proposal. Dr. Coles

made a motion for moving on with the proposal of the English program. Dr. Hendrickson second the motion. The motion passed.

Kevin reported on Community College recruitment. DCAA International students have come to visit EIU and several tried out for the soccer team. Kevin also had news from the Honors College of an International student receiving the Presidential Scholar award. She is from Malaysia and is one of the best, if not the best candidate. This is a very prestigious award.

Ms. Williamson reported on Monday, March 5th, an International Student Recruitment Consultation is being held in the Union. A draft document of the proposed Study Abroad Senior Seminar was distributed to the members. A final document will be drafted later. Study Aboard is a priority at EIU but is only sending approximately 200 students. The faculty-lead programs and the semester programs are most popular. We are trying hard to increase the number of study abroad students by requiring a 2.5 GPA. Other programs substitute the Senior Seminars for other classes. Some senior seminar programs are approved while others are not.

The proposal is lining up the Study Abroad senior seminar with General Requirements, Senior Seminar or Study Aboard. Wide interest in Study Aboard senior seminar is not anticipated only double enrollment. Every student would have to make a decision whether they would take Senior Seminar or Study Aboard.

The value of studying abroad for students is it enhances resumes and improves job opportunities. Seventy-three percent of the Study Abroad students cited it is important to job interviews. It would aid in recruiting high power students. Study Aboard senior seminar would make students think about studying abroad when they enroll at EIU.

Ms. Williamson would like to have support letters by Spring Break to see how many faculty are in favor of the Study Aboard as a senior seminar proposal.

Dean Augustine stated the change to put Study Abroad as senior seminar is a game change for us. A major part will be convincing colleagues. It will take a united effort.

Dr. Bollinger asked where Study Abroad seminar stands in duration. Ms. Williamson stated 3 or more credits or a 3 week course. Dr. Bollinger didn't know if he agreed with the purpose for Senior Seminar and wondered if they meet the standard and are aligned with curriculum.

Dean Augustine suggested meeting with Ms. Herrington-Perry to check the Senior Seminar for Student Learning Outcomes and meets Standards such as critical thinking. Also determine if the Student Learning Outcomes fit in the curriculum.

Ms. Holland stated the language of present Senior Seminar is 75 hours to include writing verses Study Abroad is general but generally equally valuable to the curriculum.

Dr. Carter suggested the issue of the course being offered as a sophomore course and the students would appreciate it as a senior. Student Teaching students' requirements include a multi-culture diversity class at the end of their program which has background and support to help the students in classrooms.

Dean Augustine asked if one thought 3 hours in a Senior Seminar was going to be as interesting as a Study Aboard course. It would be a life changing experience yet a challenge to be part of the curriculum. The course will be populated by students wanting the experience.

Dr. Bollinger asked if we have evidence that curriculum change is what we want and is worth the push.

Dr. Coles suggested if one would make a table of benefits, it would have many benefits and doubt if any negatives.

Ms. Boro added more students, who have studied aboard, are repeating the experience.

Dr. Carter indicated that financial and meeting requirements were concerned issues of parents.

Dr. Boggs asked how many years the program would begin. Ms. Williamson stated 1 year would not be enough time to implement the program. We would not have programs for 110. Dr. Boggs suggested making it easy for students to sign up to talk to faculty. Then, there is financial aid, which is a real challenge. So, when freshman register have Study Aboard listed. It may make the students think about it.

Dean Augustine stated part of this is embedding as a choice for the students. Once having the program available how to make easy enrollment will be another issue.

Ms. Holland suggested we have a very good situation; we have a financial aid person willing to stop to assist the students when needed. Students will then go home to talk with parent about cost.

Dr. Carter's department found that students coming with 45 hours will help students studying aboard. The students also plan 1 year in advance for financial reasons. Advertising and recruitment are important, but the department also needs communication with parents.

According to Ms. Holland parents panic about the financial aspect of Study Aboard. Scholarships do help. The Study Aboard seminar could attract students to plan ahead.

Ms. Williamson will meet with CAA early in April and would like IEC support as well as department unity. Ms. Holland stated there is strong opposition. Senior Seminars are strong and do not see the 2 are comparable.

Dr. Carter suggested making a case where they use it to make an oppositional proposal. Dean Augustine urged faculty to email Study Aboard seminar support letters.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Recorder: Nancy Meese, International Student and Scholar Office.

Next meeting scheduled April 6, 2012 Booth Library Room 4440.