

MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 12, 2003

The International Programs Advisory Committee met at 9:07 a.m. on Friday, December 12, 2003, in Conference Room 1103 Blair Hall.

Voting Members present: Dr. Frances Murphy, Dr. Scott Crawford, Xiaoran Xu,
Dr. Mahyar Izadi, Dr. Alan Baharlou, Dr. Michael Havey

Voting Members absent: Dr. Mahmood Butt, Dr. Roann Kopel, Dr. Dagni Bredesen,
Dr. Anita Shelton, Elyse Lyons

Ex-Officio and
Staff present: Dr. Robert Augustine, Mr. William J. Elliott,
Ms. Adrienne Paladino, Ms. Sue E. Songer,
Ms. Staci J. Provezis

Ex-Officio and
Staff absent: Dr. Herbert Lasky, Ms. Pam Collins

I. The minutes of October 10, 2003 and November 7, 2003 were approved as read.

II. Reports

- A. Staci Provezis submitted a Study Abroad Update report. At the invitation of the Spanish Government, Staci visited 20 universities in Spain to explore opportunities for joint exchanges between EIU and various universities in Spain. Santiago de Compestelo is one university she feels is worth looking into. Staci has been reviewing our contracts and met with Allison Witt, the former Coordinator, to review contract updates. Staci also reported EIU's Study Abroad programs are being advertised in a variety of ways. Staci also mentioned that 22 students will be studying abroad in Spring 2004.
- B. Bill Elliott presented a proposal for international students to purchase insurance in addition to EIU's standard coverage. Bill recommends that all students purchase the additional coverage to insure that international students would have the financial support needed if they became ill and needed family assistance or if they died. He recommends that all students be required to voluntarily purchase the insurance for the Spring 2004 semester, but Bill would like to have this Student Insurance as a required fee component for the Fall of 2004. Dr. Augustine suggested voting on this at the January IPAC meeting. Before this proposal can be moved forward, it would need IPAC endorsement. Dr. Frances Murphy requested

more detail regarding bringing someone here to assist the international student, as well as bringing the international student back to their country. Bill will provide more information in January.

Bill further reported that F2 dependents do not have insurance when they come with their spouses and are not covered by the EIU policy. Staff is looking into what other universities are doing and what might be available.

- C. Sue Songer reviewed the Fall 2003 international students admission statistics. She reported that we have 153 international students and gave statistics that included the five top countries represented. She also reported on the NAFSA Regional Conference that she and Bill Elliott attended with four graduate assistants. One graduate assistant, Elizabeth Havey, presented at the conference. Sue reported that there are challenges continuing to impact higher education related to the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

Sue reviewed the International Forum which was held on November 19, where Dr. Teshome Abebe spoke on Africa's Global Situation. Dr. Abebe stated that he appreciates international education.

Sue also provided a brief report on the International Holiday Banquet, December 8, 2003. She also noted that a student from Japan was forced to return home due to the death of a student's father. The student was in the IEP program and once he passes TOEFL, he wants to return to EIU.

Sue reported the transition to referring the IEP students to Lake Land College has gone well. EIU's IEP program will be on an extended hiatus.

Sue reported that NSEERS (Special Registration) has been discontinued, but is being replaced by U.S. Visit. All visitors to the U.S. will go through a biometric scanner. Passports will have a biometric code implemented.

International Programs will have its first hearing impaired student this Spring 2004 and possibly one more hearing impaired student, if they get their visa. Kelly Miller and Esther Witsman have shown such an advocacy for our international students.

- D. Dr. Augustine reported that Dr. Merribeth Bruning's independent study has not been presented yet, but that IPAC would have it for the January 2004 meeting. Policies for students who wish to study abroad as an independent study require IPAC review.

There have been discussions among the colleges regarding international education. The Provost's office wants to do a feature in the Summer

bulletin regarding Study Abroad. The Provost wants to increase the long-term program in the future.

Dr. Izadi is working on an exchange program in Copenhagen. Dr. Izadi is bringing two scholars from Sweden for two months each. Dr. Bojun Shan will be coming this Spring, probably February 2004.

- E. Dr. Baharlou stated how happy he was about the IGP that got put into place regarding international faculty.

Dr. Baharlou recognized IPAC members Dr. Michael Havey and Dr. Scott Crawford, who recently received academic awards. Dr. Luis-Clay Mendez also received an academic award posthumously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEXT MEETING

Friday, January 9, 2004

9:00 a.m.

Graduate School Conference Room, 1103 Blair Hall

Agenda Items:

Bill Elliott's proposal for Supplemental Insurance for international students
Dr. Merribeth Bruning's Education Abroad Proposal