

**2008-2009**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**INTERNATIONAL STUDIES COUNCIL**

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During the academic year of 2008-2009, the International Studies Council (ISC), in close cooperation with the International Programs Office (IPO), evaluated and approved several agreements with universities in other countries, discussed and approved proposals for courses which included an international study component, undertook a review of ISC procedures, and continued reflecting upon the Council's mission itself. This report will present only some of the highlights of the various activities of the Council during 2008-2009.

The Council discussed, evaluated, and approved semester- or year-long academic exchange programs and/or courses which involve international collaboration. Among the former are, for example, an "Agreement for Academic Exchange between The College of Engineering, the University of Massachusetts Amherst and The School of Engineering, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology" and an "Agreement between the University of Massachusetts Amherst and EFREI, Engineering Institute, Paris, France." In the latter category, the ISC endorsed a winter term study abroad program in Sadhana Forest in India (through Living Routes), a summer study abroad course on African drum and dance in Ghana, and a course on Applied Field Studies in Guatemala.

The Council formulated five "Articles" on the place of International Education on campus within the context of the proposed campus reorganization, and submitted these to the Director of the International Programs Office, the Chancellor, and to the Faculty Senate.

The Council discussed, supported, and/or was involved in hosting delegations from Shaanxi Normal University, China; from Hong Kong Baptist University; from Hokkaido University, Japan; the Mongolian University of Science and Technology; Sciences PO (Paris, France); the University of Freiburg, Germany; the Consul General of Spain; Qafqaz University in Azerbaijan; Republic Polytechnic Institute of Singapore; and the South Mediterranean University in Tunisia.

The Council reviewed the campus collaboration with Living Routes, which works with our campus to provide various educational opportunities abroad for our students. The Council determined that the provider had maintained the high level of its academic offerings and onsite infrastructure and thus recommended continuing collaboration with Living Routes.

The Council established an International Education Week subcommittee to coordinate and publicize events for that week; established a Recruitment and Admissions Policy subcommittee to attract international undergraduate students to campus and to explore ways in which the undergraduate admissions process might be improved for international students; the International Studies Council also updated its bylaws.

The Council continued discussing two central issues: recruitment of undergraduate and graduate students abroad; and the formulation of a university template for joint/dual degree programs with universities from abroad.

The Council looks forward to continuing its efforts in internationalizing the campus, its members, and programs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donal Carbaugh, Chair  
International Studies Council