

Minutes - **ISC meeting- September 14 2009** (submitted by Sherry Bohonowicz)

Attended by: Donal Carbaugh (Chair), Frank Hugus, Erika Schluntz, Don Gjertson, Pat Vokbus, Nigar Khan, Peter Stern, Rick Taupier, Steve Forrest, Elizabeth Brabec; Guests: Lyle Craker, Zoe Gardner, Nola Stephen

1) Action Item

A motion was made to review the proposed winter session course, “Amazonian Shamanic Medicine”. Donal Carbaugh informed the council that COPE had already vetted the proposal. Lyle Craker (Plant Soil & Insect Sciences) explained that students participating in this program will explore traditional plant medicines of the Amazon rainforest, gaining first-hand knowledge from field research about medicinal and psychoactive plants, environmental preservation, shamans, and medicine men and women. Chris Kilham (“The Medicine Hunter”) who is an adjunct UMass professor will be teaching the course and leading the trip. Students participating in this trip will have classroom requirements before hand and will be able to expand their knowledge by seeing plants in their native habitats and by interacting with native practitioners. There will also be coursework upon their return to campus. Students participating in this winter session program will receive 3 credits.

Discussion followed:

Questions were raised about the safety of the participating students, particularly in regard to spiders and snakes. Lyle Craker stated that Chris Kilham who will be leading the program will conduct a detailed orientation in safety (including proper clothing) for the students prior to departure. A suggestion was made to use a satellite phone and plan ahead to know where an injured /sick student could be taken for proper treatment. Craker expects to have a maximum of 18 students participate in the program.

2) Approval

A motion was made to approve the program; it was seconded and voted unanimously.

3) Action Item

A motion was made to review the proposed agreements:

“The agreement on Education and Research exchanges between the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Hokkaido University of Education” and the “Implementing memorandum; Student exchange projects Between the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Hokkaido University of Education.”

Nola Stephen spoke to these proposals. She and Andrew Effrat (along with others) have been going to Hokkaido since 1992 and establishing contacts at Hokkaido University and The Hokkaido University for Education. About 5 years ago they began to work on the exchange agreements between UMA and HUE.

The following is a brief synopsis of the proposal:

The University of Massachusetts Amherst and Hokkaido University of Education agree to implement student exchange activities provided for in the Agreement on Education and Research.

1. The participating exchange students can be either graduate or undergraduate. If the exchange student is a graduate student, the department with which he/she is seeking affiliation has the right to review and decide on the student's application.
2. Both Universities will receive up to 5 students from each other per year. HUE International Center may nominate students from all HUE branch campuses (Sapporo, Hakodate, Asahikawa, Kushiro, and Iwamizawa) as part of this total of 5 students. Similarly UMass may nominate students from the other University of Massachusetts campuses as part of the total of 5 students. One-year student exchange programs are preferred, but students desiring shorter exchanges may be accommodated upon recommendation of the home institution.
3. The exchange program may, subject to the availability of necessary funds, include the following activities:
 - a. Exchange of research personnel (dispatch of research personnel from the home university to the Host University and provision of support to visiting personnel) including short academic offerings at mutually convenient times.
 - b. Conduct of joint research (either by individuals or groups of research personnel from an international perspective).
 - c. Exchange of academic resources and materials.
 - d. Acceptance of appropriate students from the partner university for study and training.
 - e. Other items which may contribute to the development of exchange and research between the two universities.

Discussions followed:

Nola was asked whether the program is only for the educational field? Nola is not sure; she will check.

Legal counsel has reviewed the document and some small changes need to be made in item 4, item 6B (e.g., what happens to students currently involved if the agreement should get terminated?) and item 7.

This would be another great option for our students to study in Hokkaido.

4) Approval

A motion was made to approve the two Hokkaido agreements; it was seconded and voted unanimously.

5) Approval of the May 4, 2009 minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes of May 4, 2009 meeting; it was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

6) Election of Council Chair: A motion was made to re-elect Donal Carbaugh as the new chair of ISC; it was seconded and approved by acclamation.

7) Announcements

Rick Taupier distributed information about data sets that he has created on international activity on campus. Currently available on the web is information on:

- Sponsored International research
- Fulbright Scholars-Faculty, visiting scholars and UMA Students
- Faculty Senate Approved International Agreements
- Funding Sources for International research. He is in the process of building and creating new databases; he will send out announcements when these databases are available on the web. Planned for the beginning of October;
 - Foreign Graduate Students
 - International MoU's
 - International Scholarly Activity

Rick cannot see the annual faculty report or he would be able to extract data from that also.

Donal Carbaugh had several announcements:

- Donal thanked Frank Hugus for his work on ISC over the summer.
- Donal talked with Rick and Nigar over the summer concerning dual degree planning. Nigar has been working on an umbrella for graduate students for dual degrees.
- Donal greatly appreciates the tremendous amount of work Steve Forrest has done with the Committee on Overseas Programs and Exchanges (COPE).
- Donal announced that Luis Marentes will be leaving the COPE subcommittee and wished to thank him for all of his hard work over the years. Barbara Zecchi from the Spanish Department will be joining COPE as a new member.
- Donal would like to invite the new Provost to an ISC meeting (probably in the spring). ISC would be interested in knowing what the Provost sees as a mission for the Council.
- Donal would like everyone to help with the recruitment of International students to campus and to encourage people with resources to help in recruiting.

8) IPO Directors Report

Frank Hugus reported:

- On June 2nd Frank Hugus attended an IRAC subcommittee meeting on joint-dual degrees. The committee discussed strategies and he hasn't heard anything since.
- Frank Hugus traveled Germany from June 5th - June 21st to attend a DAAD seminar for senior administrators on the Bologna Process. He visited Bonn, Cologne, Brussels, Berlin, from June 6th – 13th and had visits to Ulm, Konstanz, and Freiburg from June 14th-20th.
- On August 4th Erin Barrett and Frank addressed the group of Iraqi students that the Donahue Institute's Civic Initiative brought to UMass. They were interested in learning how to apply for study at US universities.

There were several visits to campus this summer among them were:

- Nanyang Technological University of Singapore, to explore a possible exchange with Communication, July 30
- Long-term partner institution, the University of Copenhagen, Julie Andersen, International Office, and Dean Kirsten Refsing, Humanities, August 7

IPO worked with departments on two new proposals:

- NSF PIRE (Partnerships for International Research and Education) proposals: Renewable energy, fluctuations in granular materials, offshore geo-hazards.
- NSF BREAD (Basic Research to Enable Agricultural Development) proposal: Turkey

Other Announcements:

- UMass Amherst has been planning for H1N1 pan flu outbreak at UMA. The University is taking a reactive mode. Sanitizing stations and educational posters (outlining steps in the prevention of germ spreading) have been strategically placed around campus.
- International Education Week will be held November 16th- 20th
- The Education Abroad Fair will be held Monday, September 21st in the Campus Center Auditorium from 4:00-6:00. There will be approximately 50 -60 programs represented.
- The Next IRAC meeting will be held on September 30th on the UMass Amherst campus.

News from the Provost's level

- The Provost has announced a new position: Director of Enrollment Management This position would help the UMass Amherst campus to recruit and retain out of state students which in turn would increase revenue.
 - The Provost would also like to hire a Director of summer programs (programs here on the UMass Amherst campus) to help increase revenue
 - The Provost is interested in the Tsinghua China "Bridge Program" This program would allow UMass Amherst to enroll 60-100 students beginning in the fall of 2010.
- Pat Vokbus from IPO reported that the Fall 09 week-long orientation for incoming international students went very well. The weather was perfect and the approximately 400 new students attended.
 - Erika Schluntz reported on the new Studio Abroad Web Site which allows students to apply to study abroad programs using a largely paperless system. It also provides comprehensive information on all UMass and partner programs. Studio Abroad is up and running and being used for the first time for students planning on studying abroad in the spring of 2010.
 - The numbers of students studying abroad for the fall are very good; the numbers are comparable with last fall, which is better than most public universities that have seen a decline in enrollment. The numbers for spring seem to be up thus far.
 - IPO will be sponsoring a series of events during International Education week including a career fair day for students who wish to study abroad; a passport day during which officials will be there allowing students to apply and for their passport.
 - Erika Schluntz traveled to Italy this past summer and taught a month long course at the Umbra Institute in Perugia. While she was in Italy she was able to visit several of IPO's other programs.

9) Meeting adjourned at 5:17 PM