

Minutes - **ISC meeting- May 4, 2009**(submitted by Sherry Bohonowicz)

Attended by: Donal Carbaugh (Chair), Frank Hugus, Erika Schluntz, Don Gjertson, Irena Bozin, Pat Vokbus, Nigar Khan, Michael Coblyn, Peter Stern, Guy Lanza, Linda Laduc, Rosa Rodriguez-Monguio , Ray Mahoney and Rick Taupier (representing Research Affairs).

**1) Approval of the April 6, 2009 minutes.** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2009 meeting; it was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

**2) Announcements.**

Donal Carbaugh had 4 announcements:

- 1) Chris Roberts from HTM will be leaving UMass to go to DePaul University. Donal wished him well and thanked him for his service on the International Studies Council.
- 2) Lorna Peterson representing the Five Colleges will also be retiring. He commended her for her long standing participation on the council and for her high caliber of contribution.
- 3) Provost Seymour will also be leaving UMass and going to Simmons College. She told Donal Carbaugh that she appreciated the work of the council and that ISC had done a nice job with the work they have performed.
- 4) The Chancellor's strategic long term plan contains several references to the university's international mission.

Frank Hugus had several announcements:

- 1) A reception for graduating international students and their families will be held Thursday May 21, 2009 in Memorial Hall from 5:30- 7:30. Frank invited all ISC members to stop by.
- 2) The International Programs Office has two students studying in Mexico. Because of the outbreak of Swine Flu, one university closed, and the student was sent home. The other university closed temporarily, and the student went to the Caribbean while waiting for the university to re-open.
- 3) Frank Hugus and Richard Yam from the International Programs Office will be attending the NAFSA Conference at the end of May in Los Angeles.
- 4) Frank Hugus will be in Germany in June. He will be one of approximately 20 international administrators from the United States and Canada traveling to Germany to learn about the Bologna Process. He will also be visiting Brussels and 3 partner institutions in Germany; Ulm, Konstanz, and Freiburg.

5) Erika Schluntz will be teaching a course in Italy at the Umbra Institute in Perugia during the month of June. She will also be visiting 8 - 10 other study abroad programs in Italy.

6) Frank let the council know that most of the funding for all of these trips is from outside sources.

7) UMass Passport News deadline is May 6<sup>th</sup>. If anyone has news to share with an International component that is not already published In the Loop, please send your contribution to Frank.

### **3) IPO Director's Report** **Frank Hugus reported:**

- The Faculty Senate will vote on May 14<sup>th</sup> on the ISC bylaw changes.
- Faculty members from the School of Education are working with IPO on an exchange program with Hokkaido University of Education.
- The International Programs Office at UMass Amherst has subscribed to Education USA. Hopefully this will generate more global interest in UMass Amherst.
- Frank attended an International Relations Advisory Council (IRAC) meeting on April 15, 2009. UMass Worcester's Office of Global Health made a presentation. UMass online wants to focus on offering courses for international students who are staying in their home countries. UMass Online feels that a survey of Chinese students on campus should be done to see what type of courses would appeal to the overseas students.
- The UMass system has been asked by Tsinghua University to host that university's winners of its distinguished freshmen award for 3 weeks in July. A "brain-storming" session was scheduled for May 5. This was a last-minute request, and Frank was not able to be there.
- A representative from Traveler-ER met with Frank Hugus and Bernie Melby from UHS to showcase a new product. It is a thumb drive that would hold all of a traveler's health information. This thumb drive can be plugged into any Windows-compatible computer so that a person's medical history would be available. Bernie Melby said that UHS would not allow anyone to insert a thumb drive into UHS computers for fear of computer viruses. Other concerns voiced by IPO were accidental loss of the device and the potential for private medical information to be made public. Also, if severely injured, there would be no way to communicate to health officials that your information was on the thumb drive.

- On Thursday April 30, 2009, Frank Hugus, Pat Vokbus, and Nancy Condon from IPO met with Bruce McCandless from OGCA, John Mullin, and Paul Kostecki to discuss Export Control Compliance. IPO stressed that it does not want to be the “police” for this policy. IPO is not legally obligated to track students who might be involved with “deemed export” research projects. IPO suggested that it serve as the information channel to help the UMass Amherst community comply with the law. UMass Lowell is under investigation, and UMass Amherst does not need to re-invent the wheel and come up with its own policy. After consulting the UMass Lowell policy, IPO has put similar safeguard policies in place: we have added a paragraph to the scholar/researcher info sheet with questions about the type of research. This will be implemented immediately. The group also discussed looking into putting similar language in the TA/Grad student contracts.
- Esther Terry, interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life and two representatives of the Housing Office met with Frank Hugus and Pat Vokbus regarding the availability of 9-month dorms for International students. There are 6 9-month dorms that could house around 1900 students. That should be sufficient. There needs to be better communication between the Housing Office and IPO. The information has to be easier to find on the Housing web site. IPO should also have the information on its web site and both housing and IPO should send emails to International students so they are aware of this option.
- Frank Hugus and Erika Schluntz attended a meeting last week of the campus’s Emergency Management Team headed by Brain Olsen concerning the possible Swine Flu outbreak and emergency measures that may need to be taken.

#### **4) Discussion: current situation regarding joint or dual degrees with international universities**

There is much confusion surrounding the definition of joint degrees, dual degrees, and a new term, double degrees. The Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning is hoping to have a joint degree with the Xiamen University approved. The Graduate School is favorably disposed to enter into such an arrangement, but Bryan Harvey’s research into Massachusetts’s approval process for academic degrees has complicated the issue of joint degrees.

Rick Taupier said that the UMA-Xiamen dual-degree program would satisfy the requirements of both universities, and the student would receive a Masters of Science in Environmental Science from the Chinese University and a Master’s of Regional Planning from The University of Massachusetts.

Rick also stated that the opportunity to approve and carry out this proposal has a shelf life of less than 9 months. Xiamen University may pull out and look to partner with another University. He would like ISC to look into how it can and should be done.

Donal Carbaugh said he would agree that ISC could act as an advocate for the proposal. Donal further stated that he thought ISC should be responsive to the issues surrounding joint/dual degrees and should be available to give guidance to faculty members who might like to make a proposal.

**5) Action Item:**

Donald Gjertson made a motion that Donal Carbaugh participate in discussions this summer regarding joint/dual degrees. Since ISC will not meet until September, council members would like their chair to be their voice. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**6) Meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM**