

Minutes-ISC Meeting- March 25, 2008 (submitted by Sherry Bohonowicz)

Attended by: Frank Hugus, Erika Schluntz, Pat Vokbus, Don Gjertson, Nigar Khan, Irena Bozin-Mirkovic, Steve Forrest, Lorna Peterson, Linda LaDuc

1) Approval of the March 25, 2008 minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes: it was seconded, and the minutes were approved by the council

2) Announcements: Frank informed the committee of the sudden unexpected death of a student studying abroad in Auroville, India. He explained her death was in no way related to her study abroad program activities or the site or country in which she was studying and he reassured the committee that other students studying in Auroville have received counseling and other support on site.

3) Report by Director of IPO:

a) Frank attended an AIEA (Association of International Education Administrators) Conference in Washington DC in February. He attended several workshops and seminars and will write a report about his experience.

b) A group of visitors from Renmin University in Beijing came to Amherst on February 28th for a meeting with several faculty from Asian Languages, Frank Hugus and Erika Schluntz from IPO about collaboration with UMass, for example, sending Chinese Instructors here from Renmin University. Lorna Peterson from Five Colleges said they would be very interested in this program

c) On March 6th two meetings were held in Amherst concerning the Bridge Program and the Confucius Institute. The Bridge Program would bring Renmin University high school students to campus as undergraduate degree students. It would be a self-funded program. Frank will be contacting Esther Terry and possibly the program could be in place by next year or the year after.

The Confucius Institute is looking to support initiatives that would have a strong Chinese Language Program with three components that would cultivate Chinese Language and Culture

- 1) Second Language training
- 2) In classroom teaching
- 3) Chinese linguistic training

d) The President's Office has authorized purchasing insurance through AIG. This insurance will cover staff and students for travel outside the USA. Although Frank has yet to see the actual policy, from the information he has been given, it appears this insurance does not provide adequate coverage for emergency medical evacuation or repatriation of remains. It is also not clear how the faculty, staff and students will be notified that this coverage exists. For now, any students studying abroad through IPO will continue to receive ISIC cards.

e) An administrative board, IOC (International Operations Committee) consisting of Rick Taupier, Nigar Kahn, Paul Kostecki, Marla Michel, Frank Hugus, Erika Schluntz and John Mullin are trying to get handle on international research by faculty. They are hoping to update this information from The Annual Faculty Report. Also they are working on gathering information concerning how many International agreements and MOU's the University has. Rick Taupier has put on line the agreements that have been passed by the Faculty Senate since 1980.

4) Review and possible approval of The EU-US Atlantis Program: Cross-media Youth Reporting Network.

Two European Universities, a small Catholic University in Belgium and a Spanish University, need two United States partners to collaborate on exchanging journalism students to train them for work in a multi-cultural society.

The exchange would consist of four weeks at a time at each University. The European universities have reached an agreement to partner with American University in D.C. and UMass.

EU-US Atlantis is looking for a letter of support from The University of Massachusetts so it can apply for a grant to fund this program.

There were many questions concerning this program, and the proponents of the proposal although informed of the meeting, were not in attendance to speak to their proposal.

5) No Action- a motion was made to take no formal action until further information is provided. The consensus of the members was to support submission of the EU-US Atlantis proposal and to work with the group to develop an appropriate exchange program if the proposal is funded.

6) Sherry Bohonowicz will send evaluation material to Steve Forrest to assist the subcommittee in evaluating the Living Routes Programs.

7) Next ISC meeting to be held April 17, 2008

8) Meeting adjourned at 5:05 P.M.