

Minutes - ISC meeting- March 9, 2009

Attended by: Donal Carbaugh (Chair), Frank Hugus, Erika Schluntz, Steve Forrest, Don Gjertson, Howard Peelle, Irena Bozin, Lorna Peterson, Chris Roberts, Pat Vokbus and guest Rick Taupier (representing Research Affairs).

1) Approval of the February 2, 2009 minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2009 meeting; it was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

2) Announcements. Donal Carbaugh reported that he had forwarded the Council's recommendations (consisting of five "Articles") to the proposed campus reorganization to the Faculty Senate. He thanked members for their contributions to this document. He urged members to inform him if they learn of anything that requires input from the Council.

He informed the Council that the student-exchange program with EFREI, Engineering Institute (endorsed by the Council at its February 2 meeting), had been approved by the Faculty Senate on February 26.

Steve Forrest noted that the teaching of foreign languages is declining in high schools and colleges cross the country.

Erika Schluntz summarized the recent evaluation trip that she and Luis Marentes (Spanish and Portuguese) had taken to Spain. She and Luis had visited UMass study-abroad sites in Granada and Oviedo. There will be changes to both programs.

3) IPO Director's Report

- Frank Hugus reported that he had addressed the problems that the new academic calendar posed for education abroad at the February 26 meeting of the Faculty Senate.
- IPO has been contacted by several UMass Amherst faculty members who are submitting PIRE (Partnerships for International Research and Education) proposals to NSF and one faculty member who is submitting an IGERT (Integrated Graduate Education and Research Trainee) program proposal. If these proposals are funded, the faculty will work with IPO to develop programs which will support students for study and/or research abroad.
- On Wednesday, March 4, Frank and Erika Schluntz met with 30-35 first-year students in Emerson Residence Hall to talk about studying abroad. There seemed to be a quite a lot of interest, and the students asked good questions.

4) Discussion: the Chancellor's Vision of Bringing More International Students to Campus

After a brief discussion, the Council agreed that Donal Carbaugh, in his role as Chair of Council, should write to the Faculty Senate, with copies to the Chancellor and the Director of IPO, endorsing the Chancellor's February 11 statement to retired faculty that there should be more international undergraduate students on campus.

5) Discussion: Bylaw Revisions

The Council reviewed the membership list and noticed that some of the membership titles have slightly changed. As a result, the Council will recommend that the following revisions be made in the titled used in our membership list:

-for (f), the word “Foreign” should be change to “International,” to reflect that the current title is “International Student Advisor.”

-for (i), the word “Coordinator” should be changed to “Executive Director.” The current title is “Five College Executive Director.”

The Council also discussed and unanimously endorsed the addition to Council membership of: “The Vice Chancellor for Research or a designee, serving ex officio.”

The Council discussed the diminished role of "Area Studies" on campus which is not reflected in the membership list. Also discussed was adding the position of IPO's “Director of Education Abroad” as an ex officio member. These two matters will be discussed further at the next meeting of the Council.

6) Discussion: IPO Contribution to the Campus's Strategic Plan

Frank Hugus reported that he had received a draft of the “Strategic Plan” dated spring 2009. This document contains very few references to “international” or “global” concerns. Frank does not know how “public” this plan actually is or how widely it has been distributed. Donal Carbaugh will request a copy of the plan from the Faculty Senate.

Frank will submit to the drafters of this plan suggestions for the inclusion of language which emphasizes and endorses the campus's global activities. The Council's “Articles” (see announcements above) should be appended to these suggestions.

Meeting adjourned 5:10 PM