

Minutes - **ISC meeting- April 6, 2009** (submitted by Sherry Bohonowicz)

Attended by: Donal Carbaugh (Chair), Frank Hugus, Erika Schluntz, Steve Forrest, Don Gjertson, Howard Peelle, Irena Bozin, Pat Vokbus, Guy Lanza, Ernie May, Nigar Khan, Michael Coblyn, Michael Sugerman, Peter Stern and Rick Taupier (representing Research Affairs).

1) Approval of the March 9, 2009 minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2009 meeting; it was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

2) Announcements.

- All UMass students studying abroad in Italy are accounted for and okay following the earthquake in that region.
- On April 16, 2009 at 4:00 PM in the Procopio room in Hills South, the students who attended the LARP Spring Break program in Guatemala will give a presentation and share their results.
- Ernie May reported on the budget update. No one has heard anything officially; however, it appears that the current levels may be okay and 20% may not have to be cut out of the budget. Stay tuned.

3) IPO Director's Report

Frank Hugus reported on several campus visits

- On March 10, 2009 The Boston-based Consul General of Spain visited the Amherst campus and met with Frank, Pat Vokbus, and Erika Schluntz of IPO and faculty from the Spanish/Portuguese department to discuss a center for Spanish Studies in Western Mass. Erika Schluntz reported the Spanish government sponsors a program for graduate students to teach English in Spain. They would teach 20 hours a week during the school year at the elementary and secondary school levels and would receive 700 E. Approximately 6 UMass Amherst students have applied so far.
- On March 23rd faculty from Qafqaz University in Azerbaijan visited with John Mullin and Paul KostECKI about bringing their faculty here to UMass Amherst for research and study.
- On March 26th SIT (School for International Training) brought approximately 40 graduate students to UMass Amherst to learn more about what the International Programs Office does. Frank Hugus, Erika Schluntz, and Pat Vokbus addressed the group, and the students from SIT who asked some very good informed questions.
- On March 27th a group from RPI (Republic Polytechnic Institute of Singapore) came to campus and met with John Cunningham and HTM and Kinesiology departments. RPI would like to establish a cooperative program with UMass Amherst.
- Dean Mahmoud Triki of South Mediterranean University in Tunisia met with Frank Hugus, Pat Vokbus, and Erika Schluntz from IPO, and Bob Marx and Carol Barr from SOM. SMU would like to discuss UMass developing a program where students would study for 2 years in Tunisia and then 2 years at UMass and obtain a degree from UMass.

Stephanie Chapko from admissions was enthusiastic about bringing in these new transfer students to campus.

Frank Hugus reported on several conferences/meetings

- On March 12th, Frank attended a conference at St. John's University in New York about security in study abroad. We are doing well but we could do better. Frank will email the information to anyone who would like it.
- On March 19th Frank attended an IIE best Practices conference in New York City. It was not as informative as Frank had hoped; however, he did learn a few good things concerning joint and dual degrees.
- On March 16th, Pat Vokbus, Erin Barrett, and Naoko Ishida from IPO attended a spring immigration workshop in Wellesley, MA regarding SEVIS regulations.
- On March 31st Erika Schluntz from IPO attended a USAC (Universities Studies Abroad Consortium) meeting. Many good contacts were made, and it was a good relationship-building conference. USAC offers studies in many non-traditional places where students can receive a better cultural experience. USAC's programs are very affordable.
- On March 27th Frank attended an Export Control Compliance meeting with representatives of the Graduate School, Research Affairs, and OIT. Export Control restricts access of non-US citizens to information that is classified. These federal regulations could affect UMass students on F1 or J1 visa or researchers and scholars working here in laboratories and having access to new research or ideas. UMass Amherst must be in compliance with these regulations. This compliance is being mandated by the UMass system. If a campus is found in violation, the university might have to pay up to one million dollars in fines. UMass Lowell has taken the lead and has developed policies and procedures. UMass Amherst could use these as a guideline to developing its own policies.

Concerns of Director of IPO

- There has been a decline in the number of International students on campus.
- There is a need to recruit more international undergraduates.
- Should we advertise? Probably not at this time; the admissions office is not eager to process all the forms from overseas applicants.
- How can we get them to embrace international applicants?
- Other schools allow international students to pay in state fees, not out of state fees.
- Out of state tuition is too high for international undergrads to pay.

4) Other Business

Donal Carbaugh stated that ISC could make a recommendation to the Provost, Chancellor, and the admissions office to encourage recruitment of international students. The recommendation would make suggestions on how to attract more students and help increase the number of international admissions.

Issues to discuss:

- International undergraduate students cannot receive financial aid. There are more graduates than undergraduates because the graduate students are able to get more funding. Also graduate students are applying to specific programs.
- ISC could try to develop effective strategies to recruit both undergraduate and graduates. Boston University has been successful in recruiting students from Western Europe and Latin America, BU has a good budget for recruiting. BU also has alumni that help recruit.
- Possibly UMass Amherst could have alumni ambassadors by state. There are similar alumni ambassador programs in other countries.
- Create a budget for advertising.
- Use the internet to recruit.
- Network of Fulbright Scholars could be effective advocates.

This matter will be discussed more at the next ISC meeting. A business plan needs to be developed and see what the pay off would be. Perhaps forming a study group of ISC members to look at these issues would be a good idea.

Rick Taupier reported that he had hosted the VP of Science & Technology University in Mongolia.

Nigar Khan went to Pakistan and visited universities there. They want to send us undergraduate students and faculty. The country is now in chaos; the new government has shut down funds for higher education.

Donal Carbaugh is looking forward to having joint/dual degrees with other universities. It is very intriguing and very complicated. Does ISC want to get involved in anyway on this?

Ernie May said Brian Harvey looked at it, and UMass students are required to be taught by instructors certified by Massachusetts. A couple of courses can be taken elsewhere, but Ernie's point is that joint degrees would not work because the other university would have to be certified by the Mass Department of Higher Education. Massachusetts does not have any flexibility; it must keep its academic integrity.

There is a lot of confusion and intricacies regarding both the joint degree and dual degree programs.

In summary Donal Carbaugh would like ISC to continue working on three things:

- 1) dual/joint degree process,
- 2) grad/undergrad recruiting and admission process and evaluation #'s yield etc.,
- 3) There will be a new Provost and it would be beneficial to make suggestions for a budget for international admissions. ISC should have the new Provost in the loop whenever corresponding on issues with our departments.

Is ISC going to meet with the candidates for the Provost position? They are not on the schedule but are welcome to attend the open meetings and asking questions.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM