Minutes
International Studies Council
April 7, 2014


Guest: Jeremy Cohen, founder of This World Music.


2. COPE Report (Tim Lang)
   • Program Review of This World Music (TWM), http://thisworldmusic.com, a short-term study abroad program for which UMass Amherst is the credit-granting institution of record.
     Guest: Jeremy Cohen, founder of This World Music.
     o COPE did a comprehensive review of TWM in Ghana (February 2014).
     o Jeremy Cohen presented. The 2009 course grew out of the Masters course Jeremy taught at UMA. The Ghana program expanded in 2012 with an additional 3 credit winter session and the 6 credit summer program.
     o TWM has transitioned from a faculty-led program to being a provider organization.
     o Itinerary for the 3 week summer program: 2 weeks living and studying at the Dagbe Cultural Institute in a village in Ghana then the 3rd week traveling to Accra, to master class, slave forts, rainforest reserves. The difference with the winter session is that the students are just at the institute with no traveling and a pared down reading list.
     o Highly structured curriculum with a final video-taped performance of drumming and dancing. Assigned course readings and participation is mandatory for all days. Everything runs on time.
     o Tim will give Jeremy’s PowerPoint to Steve who will email to ISC.
     o Howard Peelle asked if they have evaluation methods. Jeremy responds that they use the Study Abroad 101 evaluation tool.
     o Sara Lawrence College conducted a site visit for assess for undergrads.
     o Kalpen discussed hiring an independent consultant that IPO would pick for evaluation.
     o Jeremy’s program has been very positive and has won a Study Abroad award.
     o UMass is the school of record. The students from many colleges register through UMass and we record the transcriptions.
     o Demographic profiles: 60-70% female. (A lot of elementary school music teachers attend and they tend to be females.) The age range varies widely. Racially, the majority is white, but they get more African Americans than most Study Abroad programs. The disciplines the students are from are 50% music, 25% dance and 25% other art experiences. This could be more attractive to minority students. Jeremy should market that and could get support with scholarships/financial aid.
     o A small percentage are UMA students—partly because Jeremy is not on campus anymore. It’s not easy to get buy-in from the Depts. Kalpen said one reason is that we don’t have an ethno- musicologist on campus but Hampshire does.
     o Make this a GenEd class?
     o Elizabeth Mazzocco says she might work this into their 5-College Language program.
Jeremy leaves, discussion follows:

- COPE reviewed it from several angles: Managerial—seemed positive. From the safety and security perspective—Jeremy has a well-thought out and comprehensive plan. Even if Jeremy is not in Ghana, the assistants can manage any emergency.
- The only aspect of the program that concerns COPE is the academic side. UMA has the responsibility of creating the transcript. COPE’s conclusion is that TWM is very rich in experience, but may under-deliver on the academic side, especially in their claims to introduce students to ethnography, anthropology, etc., but they do not have an ethnographer or an anthropologist, etc. on staff. They have the students keep journals but do not collect them. Their reading list is never discussed.
- COPE recommends that the program should continue but also had suggestions. The reading list should be discussed before and/or after the travel by Skype or in lecture sessions. Jeremy could partner with a musicologist, anthropologist, etc. A question was raised about whether or not all staff have terminal degrees, MAs, or MFAs. Jeremy Cohen used to be a Lecturer at UMA, so as the director he meets instructor of record criteria, and he is responsible for assessing the course.
- COPE suggests we approve this but with the proviso that they improve the academic program by the time we review this again in about 3 to 4 years. Kalpen and Steve think they should implement the changes sooner.
- If, as was suggested, they make the program a GenEd, they can use the GenEd template. Kalpen says we should require in a year or two that they consult an anthropologist, ethno-musicologist, etc., from Smith, Hampshire, Mt. Holyoke, who could contribute to the teaching. Jeremy calls this a Performing Arts program—Isabel says he could easily add more reading. Studio courses are not given GenEd status but as the Sara Lawrence review recommended a couple of years ago, they should expand the reading list, allow cross-talk, require a short paper before the trip about the required text and declare their goals.
- Howard Peelle still questions whether this comprises 3 credits. ISC is the approval authority. Howard: have to trust the Dept. of Music; this was the course when Jeremy was a faculty in music. Dangling GenEd is a strong carrot. They could get many more students. The Chair of the Dept. approved the course back then.

Action:

- The committee recommends a certain time limit, 1 year from this summer, to expand the academics in the program and work with someone knowledgeable to accomplish this.
- Steve, Tim and Kalpen will come up with specific recommendations to be provided to TWM as conditions of approval.
- The committee voted unanimously to approve the affiliation with This World Music, with the proviso that the academic programming is improved and expanded—within a year.

3. ISC will postpone the discussion of the Faculty Senate web-based document workflow for the next meeting.
4. Update on the ACE Internationalization Lab, specifically: preliminary recommendations regarding campus internationalization (Joseph Berger and Mzamo Mangaliso, Co-Chairs of UMass Amherst American Council for Education, Internationalization Lab) Jack Ahern:
   - The Chairs have circulated a Draft of the ACE Internationalization plan for UMA. The chairs and Jack have been presenting the draft to many campus councils such as GenEd Council, Research Council, Outreach Council, GEO, etc.
   - There has been confusion of the timing of the ACE Draft for JFTSO and the ACE Internationalization Report. The ACE preliminary Draft is to be included into the campus strategic plan due in 4 weeks. ACE will continue to work in the summer and the subcommittees will be back working in the fall for the complete, final ACE report. The ACE process finishes with a visit from CE and peer institutions for review and comment. ACE will continue with the work that's been done and complete the fine-tuned reports as planned next year.
   - We welcome comments on our Draft for JFTSO: write Jack and copy Joe and Mzamo.
   - When will the JFTSO draft be turned over? It will be voted on in May at the Faculty Senate and trying to get it into the JFTSO now. We want the campus community for comment.
   - Isabel raises the issues of immigrant and transnational ties and hopes that is included. She herself is 2nd generation transnational and has experienced frustration. Jack responds that the subcommittees have been discussing Heritage students and will include this. The committees have been in discussion of what is an international student and planning on including a complex multifaceted definition of all the variations.
   - Howard would like to have the names of all the people who worked on the subcommittees in the final report. There were no students who were on the subcommittees but it was not for a lack of trying by IPO and the chairs to recruit them. If you have any names, please send them to Andrea or Jack—it's not too late.
   - ISC also has similar problems recruiting students and retaining them. Tim might be able to get some for the committee.

5. IPO Director’s Report (Jack Ahern):
   - Jack attended a conference at SUNY in NY called Collaborative Online International Learning Conference (COIL). It was more than just online learning—it was about the use of technology to support internationalization.
   - IPO and Research Council will be hosting our annual Fulbright Workshops for faculty with individual consultations. April 10-11.
   - April 8, IPO will have our annual Passport Day where anyone on campus—students, staff or faculty—can get a passport. There will even be someone to take passport pictures. This is a simple way to build internationalization into the campus culture.
   - There is a new International Student Club on campus initiated by a group of international students. IPO and Student Affairs are collaborating with them as they try to build a community of international students. One of the very energetic leaders, Pearl Nguyen, a freshman, was sent, with IPO advisor Richard Yam, to a conference all about international student clubs. Not sure if the club is only for international students but we might suggest opening it up to internationally-inclined domestic students.
   - IPO and Student Affairs co-sponsored an event for International Women’s Day.
   - IPO has 2 major software products ready to be implemented.
- The travel registration Risk Info software to track faculty and some non-credit students will be implemented system wide on all UMass campuses. This is also tied to Pre-Travel Authorization.
- Sunapsis, also being implemented system-wide on UMass campuses, is ready to be installed. This will help integrate immigration and visa status for our international students and scholars.
- HFA, SBS and IPO contribute equal amounts for a very prestigious Fulbright chair. We work with The Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies (CLACLS) and have brought a named Fulbright chair in Brazil Studies here on campus.

6. There is 1 more meeting this semester.