International Studies Council
MINUTES
October 6, 2014


Guest: Elisabeth Hamin, Department Head of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning.

1. Steve Forrest expresses a note of gratitude to ISC member Elizabeth Mazzocco, from the 5-College Center for the Study of World Languages, who recently passed away.

   • The attendance sheet was mislaid. The Minutes do not record those present for the meeting.

3. ISC Membership and Website:
   • Introductions from everyone around the table for new members.
   • Jack Ahern could not attend because of travel. Kalpen represented him.
   • Kalpen introduces Ken Reade, the new Director of International Students and Scholars at IPO.
   • New Member Introductions: Amy Wordelman, representing the 5-Colleges Center for the Study of World Languages, and Queenette Adegbite, SGA student representative.
   • ISC needs a replacement for Peter Stern who is now a member of COPE only.
   • ISC is always looking for members from STEM Departments.

4. COPE Report (Tim Lang):
   • Last year COPE worked with Bryan Beck to make a faculty-led program based workflow. Much was done last semester. The COPE-ISC workflow for UMass curriculum is up and running. The following 2 presentations of faculty-led programs were made before the workflow was available.
   • ISC minutes will be up on the website.

   • Faculty-led program proposal: Landscape Architecture and Urban Sustainability Study Tour to Paris, Amsterdam, and Rotterdam presented by Kalpen Trivedi for Jack Ahern (LARP/IPO):
     o Jack’s program has been ongoing for 10 years, but it’s been a while since the course has gone through COPE-ISC for review.
     o This is the model that he wants to use for other faculty-led courses that will use the same syllabus, but change the destination(s). It is a semester long course that will have the study tour in May, after school ends, so the students may stay on their own if they want.
     o Ahern’s and Hamin’s courses are relatively similar and from the same department. Hamin’s was 3 credits while Jack’s, a 6 credit package, had more work. COPE made the recommendation to Elisabeth that her class be increased to 4 credits.
     o Jack’s syllabus is for 3 destinations: Paris, Rotterdam and Amsterdam. The budget is for next year. He’s very conscientious of safety and has a good track record.
     o COPE voted unanimously to approve LARP 593F, 6 credits.
A summer program embedded in a semester-long class follows best practices.

This did raise questions of credits when compared with Hamin’s course. They raised a question about credits to length of time? Activities are hard to judge credit. Have to trust the faculty that knows the teaching and what is involved.

Jack’s Study Tour is a 2 week program.

Discussion of how many credits on Faculty Senate: 3 for 1. Do you count class time, immersion? Kalpen: depends on the programs.

Howard suggests asking the students if the credits are too easy or hard. It’s mentioned that it is already a question on the survey. But that data will be post-facto—after we approve. Kalpen and Tim agree that could be useful to use for evaluation.

Faculty-led program proposal: Planning for Climate Change: Field Study in Belize presented by Elisabeth Hamin, LARP:

- Hamin is the Department Head at LARP and has taught planning and climate change.
- Her class is reducing lecture time and will have an 8 day trip to Belize.
- They will apply to a particular town in Belize to have the class prepare a community plan for them.
- They will be taking a doctoral student who knows Spanish but Belize is very diverse with many languages and English spoken.
- 6 days will be working in town, with 2 days for activities. They can stay in the region afterwards, if they want.
- The 3 credit class has been taught for 1 semester. The trip will add 1 credit: 4 total.
- She is asked what her experience in faculty-led programs is. She spent 1 month in Belize and got a grant from IPO for an exploratory trip in January. Her doctoral student, J. Kostaras knows the country very well. She lists more experience.
- Tim, who was concerned about enrollment, suggests this should be a 500 level class open to undergrads and grads. She could recruit students from sustainability and engineering.
- Suggestion: work with a travel agent to arrange for on-site drivers for road safety. She is talking with Yute Expeditions.
- Also, she went back to the budget to get lower housing.
- Gonen: asks what is the incentive for the student to spend on this course? Elisabeth says that if they don’t want to go, they can just take the 3-credit semester class. Also, she got the price to Belize down to $2,800.
- Kalpen encourages faculty to budget on the high side, with a cushion. This is a preliminary figure.
- Howard: have you planned a pre-orientation and a post-trip debrief? Hamin: they have to take the seminar class, which has orientation as a part. If they need it, she can schedule more. When they are in-country, they will present their projects which will include a review and is an important part of the wrap-up. They will be presenting their projects to the town members as clients.
- Kalpen says she should go to his faculty-led workshop.
- Isabel suggests, ideally, checking in with the Belize community before the end proposal. Maybe Skype a group of stakeholders beforehand. Tim concurs since 8 days include travel, therefore it’s really 5 days—if they can Skype, they can extend the on-site period.
- Elisabeth Hamin leaves.

COPE recommended approving this program. There is great need for programs in that location (Belize) and theme (climate change). The travel is embedded in a semester course which fits
best practices and safety and she listened to their recommendations. The costs didn’t strike COPE as unusually high for these programs. Also, she just informed the committee that students can take the course without the travel portion. Kalpen says they have no safety concerns with Belize except the roads and driving, but she will be hiring drivers. José mentions that area has the highest murder rates in world. Faculty to student ratio is 1:15. Also, Hamin wants this to be an on-going program.

- Howard is concerned about ending the program for those that stay. But Tim says the students will be clear about their liability—after the program end date, the university has no liability and they are on their own.
- Maxine: what sort of assessment will be done? Steve says COPE or ISC could require more of a report.

- Jack Ahern’s student fee for the trip is $2,000.
- Gonen says that in-country Paris-Rotterdam train transportation is not in budget and very expensive. Kalpen says these details will fill out, now they are preliminary. They need 24 students to make even. Faculty to student ratio is 1:12. There is another leader besides Jack.
- The committee votes:
  - Planning for Climate Change: Field Study in Belize by Elisabeth Hamin: all approve, except Gonen Dori-Hacohen, who abstains.
  - Landscape Architecture and Urban Sustainability Study Tour to Paris, Amsterdam, and Rotterdam by Jack Ahern: all approve, except Gonen Dori-Hacohen, who abstains.

5. IPO Director’s report (Kalpen Trivedi presents for Jack Ahern):
   - Jack is absent today because he is at the University of Georgia to give a lecture and meet with their International Programs Office.
   - At the start of this semester, IPO has been distributing and disseminating to the Deans, CLC, etc., some of IPO’s new policies such as introducing a new international travel registration, mandatory for undergrads and recommended for grads, faculty and staff. This will enable the university to track UMass people in an emergency and give beneficial information to travelers such as insurance and specific travel warnings. This has been in discussion for the last few years but will be live on-line by the end of the year. This is a campus-wide program started by the President’s office for all 5 campuses. IPO has a search committee to hire an International Travel Safety Advisor to manage the registry and implement policy.
   - International Risk Management Committee (IRMC), met last week and approved resuming travel programs for students to Israel.
   - Discussion about travel to Egypt. Kalpen reports that 90% of the peer institutions on the OSAC (State Department) academic working group he is on, are not sending students to Egypt yet. Jack and Kalpen are planning a trip to Egypt and Israel next semester. IPO has an exchange with the American University of Cairo. Tim senses there is an interest from students. We send them to Oman and UAE.
   - On Sept. 30, IPO put on several events for the 50th anniversary of the exchange between the UMass system and Baden-Württemberg Universities. The day included a lunch with President Claret and Provost Newman signing the renewal exchange and an MOA with the Minister of Science and Arts from B-W. There was a panel discussion and dinner. B-W announced a gift of support for research around the theme of sustainability. We will announce more when the talks of the gift are finalized.
• OSAC College & University Health, Safety, and Security Seminar: University of Massachusetts Amherst will host a series of talks and panels on December 9 - 10. Registration is free. Here is the link: https://www.osac.gov/Pages/EventDetails.aspx?cid=2245
• The ACE Internationalization Lab is continuing with the subcommittees and meetings to give input to the JTFSO Unit Planning. Jack has asked Steve Forrest to circulate to ISC members via email the three “prompts” the administration needs.
• Next ACE meetings will be Oct. 15 and Nov. 12 at 3:30 pm in the campus center. Andrea will email all ISC members the schedule.
• IPO Internationalization Grant proposals are due on October 30. All colleges are participating except Isenberg. The proposals will be distributed to ISC members for review.
• The Provost mentioned her enthusiasm for faculty-led programs of 4-6 weeks in the summer for 6-8 credits. She would like UMass to develop more. Faculty participating will have this count toward their teaching load. This is in development.
• Meeting comes to a close. Next month the JTFSO report will be on the agenda.
• Steve mentions that UMass and Hokkaido will enter into a 25-year anniversary soon. Maxine says the Library signed an agreement with Hokkaido and she will be going in November.