International Studies Council

Minutes, October 7, 2013

Present: M. Christine King, Chair. Jack Ahern, Ernie May, Krishna Poudel, Steve Forrest, Howard Peelle, Jennifer Donais, Irena Bozin, Ashley Krause, Jenny Spencer, Jose Ornelas, Elizabeth Mazzocco, Carolyn Cave, Gonen Dori-Hacohen.

Minutes by Andrea Juno

Guests: Joe Berger, Mzamo Mangaliso, Michael Schurter, David Buchanan.

1. Minutes of last meeting May 6, 2013, approved unanimously.

2. Election of New ISC Chair:
   • Ernie May nominates Steve Forrest.
   • Vote: Steve Forrest unanimously approved for Chair of ISC for 2013-14 academic year.

3. Introduction of the American Council for Education (ACE) Internationalization Lab Co-Chairs, Mzamo Mangaliso and Joseph Berger:
   • The ACE Lab’s timing is most opportune since it coincides with the campus-wide strategic plan. This is the time to make the case for internationalization and the ACE structure provides an important opportunity.
   • The ACE co-chairs are planning to have 5 subcommittees focused on internationalization:
     o Research and Strategic Partnerships
     o Teaching and Curriculum
     o International Students and Scholars
     o Education Abroad
     o Community Engagement and Communication
   • Diversity and improving the culture on campus is a theme they see as cross-cutting for all the committees.
   • There will be a February meeting in Washington, DC with ACE to discuss initial findings/recommendations and a final draft produced in October.
   • Howard Peelle suggests creating an ACE International “Olympics” and sending a team from UMass.
   • Suggestion for an International House and getting it wired into the university strategic plan and budget soon (Ernie May).

4. COPE Business (Steve Forrest) — 2 programs:
   • Michael Schurter, ISOM, Short-Term Faculty-Led Study Tour, May 12-30, 2014, to South Africa.
     o Johannesburg and Cape Town.
     o Safety and security—some travel risks but working with a reputable company that is providing driver and guide.
     o Will visit big marketing and business companies.
     o Christina Monte, who works for Linda Shea, is his assistant.
     o Elizabeth Mazzocco, who runs the 5-College Language program, has African Ubuntu and other language classes for the students.
• School of Public Health and Health Sciences, Short Term Faculty-Led Program in Haiti by David Buchanan (Spring 2014 course with March Spring Break travel)
  o Because of safety risks David Buchanan will work with the International Risk Management Committee (IRMC). IRMC reviews and approves travel to travel warning countries and works with people in pre-travel planning and information.
  o David partnered with Ken Mundt, a faculty member in Epidemiology, who created a company to work in Haiti. The course will be in a small village in Haiti that they have a good relationship with. Ken owns the property and buildings there. The Haitian staff also runs a guest house that will provide housing and food.
  o They are aware of the major risks: This past July, Ken was in a bus accident in which his daughter was killed.
  o They will fly to Port-au-Prince. They have a 4-hour bus ride but they will investigate the possibility of flying to the village.
  o Discussion of crime in Haiti, but this is in a peaceful village far from the city.
  o Mazzocco has a Creole language program.
  o Howard mentions that Marci Williams is very interested in building schools there.
• The committee voted unanimously to approve the SPHHS Faculty-led Program in Haiti with the proviso that they work with the IRMC to focus on risk management. Also they are waiting for a completed budget.
• The committee voted unanimously to approve the ISOM Faculty-led Program to South Africa.
• Mzamo discusses the issue of violence in South Africa, particularly rape.
• Jack mentions that IPO is developing pre-departure workshops for faculty and staff who take students abroad (aiming for spring 2014)
• It is pointed out that the Center for Women & Community on campus has a good rape prevention training class and could be part of pre-departure preparation.

5. IPO Director’s Report (Jack Ahern):
• Applications for the Faculty-Staff Internationalization grant were sent out. All the departments are participating except ISOM that will not be funding any grants for this cycle. HFA & SBS are funding 2 grants. Everyone on ISC is invited to review – and may review/pass on any proposals.
• IRMC: The President’s office is buying the risk management software for travel registration for the entire UM system. This will be integrated with the Pre-Trip Authorizations. There are many benefits to registration like triggering info and warnings such as Export Controls to certain countries, vaccinations needed, and insurance information. Travel registration will be mandatory for undergraduates but encouraged for faculty and graduate students. The Chancellor has approved funding for a position that will manage the registry and provide campus wide training.
• On Oct. 18, there will be a Symposium on Internationalization and Higher Education with two panel discussions. Afterwards there will be an exhibit in ISB of the new display cases and an exhibition of the plants that Dr. W.S. Clark collected in Hokkaido, Japan 150 years ago.
• In August, Dr. Ved Prakash, head of UGC in India—akin to a Minister of Higher Education, visited UMA. He discussed new funding for exchanges with the US (UMA), and India. His talk energized engagement with partnerships with Indian institutions. We will be holding a number of events and roundtables. On Oct. 21, Dr. Sukhadeo Thorat, who was Dr. Prakash’s predecessor, will be on campus. He will give a public lecture and hold a roundtable discussion on campus diversity policies and programs.