International Studies Council

Minutes, February 6, 2012

Present: Howard Peelle, Associate Chair. Pat Vokbus, Margaret Allard, Brigid Thompson, Sonia Alvarez, Timothy Lang, Ashley Krause, Erika Schluntz, Steve Forrest, Razvan Sibii, Valerie Kurka, Jack Ahern, Carolyn Cave.

Guests: Allan Robinson, Kaimei Zheng.

Minutes by Andrea Juno.

Meeting start: 4:04 PM.

1. Discussion of minutes from December 5, 2011:
   a. Some corrections were noted and will be fixed (name of programs presented to COPE and spelling of Laurie Godfrey's first name.)
   b. Minutes were unanimously approved with these corrections.

2. Schedule of upcoming Spring 2012 ISC meetings: March 12, April 2, and May 7.


4. Agreement: School of Business, Renmin University, Beijing, China with Isenberg MBA [attachment]:
   a. Was approved at COPE. Kaimei Zheng and Alan Robinson presented. This is the third of 3 exchanges with Isenberg MBA and China (previously presented to ISC: Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Chinese University of Hong Kong).
   b. The instruction is in English but Chinese language instruction is available.
   c. Discussion of interest in MBA student population. It’s a growing program and good participation is expected.
   d. Discussion of promotion of program.
   e. There are minor changes to the agreement that didn't get into the copy given to COPE. They were— which semesters the exchange would be active. Our students will go in the Fall, Renmin welcomes students both semesters.
   f. ACTION: Vote to approve passes unanimously.

5. Presentation of Eleuthera, Bahamas, LARP Program by Elizabeth Brabec:
   a. She was not present. The program was vetted by COPE. This presentation will be set aside until/if she arrives.

6. International Scholars Program Certificate:
   a. The Commonwealth Honors College, International Scholars Program, is seeking to expand to a certificate program adding more structure to the course work. Currently 15 to 20 Honors students are accepted each year. For the Certificate Program, Honors students apply in their first year, take preparatory courses in their sophomore year, study abroad in their junior year, and in their senior year do a seminar and culminating project or their capstone experience.
b. Turning this into a certificate program adds additional, required course work. Courses staffed by Honors – and other departments (language, Culture).

c. Discussion of course list. Tim Lang is program director.

d. Discussion on how to promote the program.

e. Discussion on what certification does for students beyond having it on resume.

f. ACTION: Motion to endorse certification program as described: unanimously passed.

7. International Risk Management Committee (IRMC) update by Jack Ahern:

   a. The committee was formed to comprehensively look into international risk for university travelers and respond, mitigate and manage that risk with a draft of policies.

   b. A key part will be to create a travel registry for all students (grads & undergrads), faculty, and staff traveling abroad. IRMC is looking into a software package “RiskInfoSys” that could be used for the registry.

   c. A presentation of IRMC was made to the Deans Council and was well received.

   d. Recently, the IRMC was held up as a model of cooperation by CERM.

8. IE Study Abroad Concept by Erika Schluntz will be presented at the next meeting.

9. Fall 2011 Faculty/Staff Internationalization Grants update by Jack Ahern:

   a. Thanks given to members who participated in ranking the grant submissions. The winners accorded with the members recommendations except for one.

   b. Most of the colleges were represented except Nursing and Public Health but there were winners from the Provost’s Writing Program Office and the Library. SOM, HFA & SBS will fund 2 grants in the next round; other colleges will fund one.

   c. IPO matched funds with Colleges.

   d. The objectives of internationalization from a broad perspective were achieved with a variety of proposals ranging from developing new Gen. Ed. classes to making the library more accessible for Asian students.

   e. February 24 is the deadline for the next round of grants for the 2012-13 academic year.

   f. Discussion on ranking criteria. The preference is to fund faculty or staff inexperienced in overseas travel, but that is not an exclusive rule. The criteria are evolving as new situations are encountered.

   g. After this round, the grants will be given on a yearly cycle, allowing the summer for an overlap.

10. Fulbright Promotion presented by Jack Ahern:

    Faculty Chair Brazil:

    a. Sonia Alvarez (CLACLS) has helped us secure a hosting for a Fulbright Chair from Brazil.

    b. IPO, HFA, SBS, and the Provost’s Office are splitting the $15,000 cost equally. This will help contribute to internationalization on campus and will put us on the map as an institute that welcomes Fulbright scholars.

    c. The Film Department has interest to host a Fulbright Chair as will. We will investigate further.

    Fulbright Faculty Workshop:

    d. IPO is hosting a Fulbright Workshop on April 4, 12:00pm, given by a Fulbright staff member to help faculty develop competitive proposals. 1-2:30pm on the 4th and also on April 5, there will be individual counseling offered.
Office of National Scholarship Advisement (ONSA) support:
   e. Currently student and alumni receive Fulbright application support from ONSA run by Susan Whitbourne. The support is limited. Honors College, IPO and Grad School will partner to fund ONSA with more grad RA-support to increase Fulbright submissions.

11. IPO Director’s Report presented by Jack Ahern:
   a. A buddy system has been developed to pair international students with a UMass buddy for events and support. We have received many volunteers from Study Abroad and international alumni.
   b. IPO has heard from international students that they want more events:
      i. We have organized a bus trip to NYC to visit the Metropolitan Museum. The tickets are priced low, $35 and includes free time to explore NYC in the afternoon.
      ii. A kite festival is planned to coincide with the Earth Day festivals April 23. Kites are part of many international cultures from Haiti to Afghanistan.

12. Introduction of a new ISC member: Sonia Alvarez, directs the Center for Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies (CLACLS), and teaches Political Science.

13. Meeting adjourns 5:06 PM.