ISC Meeting

March 7, 2011

In attendance: Jane Miller (chair), Jack Ahern (IPO), Stephen Forrest (Asian Languages), Nigar Khan (Graduate school), Zhongwei Shen (Asian Languages), Ernie May (Faculty Senate), Howard Peelle (Education), Irena Bozin (Continuing Education), Guy Lanza (Economics), Michael Coblyn (Art), Elizabeth Brabec (LARP), Yariv Z. Levy (CS), Raymond Mahoney (Food Science), Thor Tillberg (undergraduate), Laurel Foster-Moore (IPO), Regine John (IPO).

Guests: Dean John Mullin (graduate school), Bryan Harvey (Provost’s office), Ed Ferszt (Provost’s office), Charles Schewe (Isenberg School of Management), Alan Robinson (Isenberg School of Management).

The meeting was called to order at 4:05.

Special Agenda Item: International dual degree programs

Nigar Kahn reviewed the overview of "Notes on Cooperative Degree Programs" (attached) prepared by Bryan Harvey. Bryan Harvey was not in attendance at this point, and joined the group at the end of Nigar’s review of the issues.

Any dual degree proposal goes through the same process as any other curriculum change or addition. Many faculty members in Public Health, School of Nursing, Management want to do this, because there is the desire on the part of graduate students to have a study abroad option that this would fulfill.

We have flexibility in transferring credits from other institutions, so we can work out the credit issues.

There are many other institutions across the country that do have dual degrees.

Bryan Harvey: Accreditation is the biggest issue as we face these programs. They will look at the program itself in the institution. They will look at control, finances, see if it is a legitimate educational operation.

Confusion between joint and dual degrees: Joint degrees are difficult since the institution must be licensed to do business in Massachusetts. Dual degrees do not need all of the requirements of joint degrees.

Mullin: Grad school does conformity of standards right now. Universities are vetted. The real issue for today is a strategy so that we can have an agreement with NEASC, so we don’t have to go through a process for every proposal.

Harvey: First step is to invite someone from NEASC to come out to the campus to discuss.

Mullin: We subscribe to a service that identifies legitimate Universities abroad.

May: The document that was approved by the Grad Council was not determined by the Rules Committee to be ready to go. Several changes were suggested, so that a document that would represent the University's intentions well.
Harvey: Start with the dual degree policy, and put that forward with an international partner University, so that we can see what NEASC will require.

May: Amend the existing Faculty Senate Policy on Dual Degrees, to identify international dual degrees.

Mullin: Have NEASC come out. Work with existing programs, modify the language of the existing dual degree policy and see if we can get a first program approved. There is a question of how many credits can be required. The current policy says at least 60 credits for the two degrees.

Mullin: Can work out flexible standards for this.

Miller: Modify existing Senate document; establish a dual degree committee; notify the Commission of NEASC; ask for a meeting.

REPORT BY COPE

Stephen Forrest, Chair of COPE, introduced 3 exchange agreements which have been approved by COPE.

*The Isenberg School of Management is proposing a Reciprocal Exchange Agreement between Isenberg SOM (UMASOM) and the Stockholm University School of Business (SUSB). Alan Robinson and Charles Schewe of Isenberg SOM spoke in support of this reciprocal exchange agreement, noting that the MBA program is gearing up for greater internationalization in its curriculum and semester-long study abroad opportunities for its students. This new reciprocal exchange agreement is in service to the goal of establishing semester-long opportunities for their students on each continent and is currently intended primarily to provide options for MBA students. Charles Schewe initiated the negotiation on the agreement because of his long-term contacts with SUSB where many classes are taught in English, and Regine John, IPO, oversaw the negotiations. The agreement specifically provides an opportunity for 2nd year MBA students to go abroad for a semester of study, with the likelihood of the following semester offering an internship.

*Guy Lanza, Professor of Aquatic Ecology and Microbiology and Assistant Dean for International Programs in the College of Natural Sciences is proposing a Reciprocal Exchange Agreement between UMA and the Lebanese American University (LAU) in Byblos, Lebanon. The Lebanese American University originated in 1950 as the Beirut College for Women and then evolved into the LAU in subsequent years. LAU was chartered by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York in 1992, and accredited in New England by CIHE-NEASC in 2009. The LAU currently provides a comprehensive curriculum in the natural sciences, engineering, humanities and social sciences. The two areas of study that will likely be most appealing to UMA undergraduates are: 1) environmental science, and biology/microbiology; and 2) legal studies and peace/world security studies. Entering into this new exchange agreement would support the goals of the College of Natural Sciences and UMA by expanding the educational and cultural literacy of students from the USA and the Middle East. Erika Schluntz, IPO, oversaw the negotiations.
Regine John, IPO, spoke on behalf of Prof. Jonathan Skolnick, Germanic Studies, who was unable to attend the ISC Meeting, proposing a new exchange agreement with Karl-Franzens-Universitat Graz, Austria (hereafter referred to as KFU Graz) which will enhance Judaic Studies, Germanic Studies and possibly also Polish Studies at UMass. There has been ongoing discussion of establishing a new M.A. program in Jewish Studies that would draw students from the EU countries as well as the U.S. This exchange would enlarge the array of offerings for this new M.A. and also link UMass to other universities in Germany, Poland, Italy and Israel as part of the Erasmus Mundus network. The exchange is open to both undergraduate and graduate students. Regine John, IPO, oversaw the negotiations.

All three exchanges were approved unanimously by ISC.

REPORT BY JACK AHERN, VICE PROVOST, IPO

VP Ahern reported on several points:

1) He wants International Programs to have more interactions with all of the academic departments, providing information to faculty about what is involved in negotiating new exchanges, reviewing faculty-led program proposals, answering other questions that faculty have.

2) He has been asked about non-credit bearing international activities, such as the Engineers Without Borders, in relation to the liability question, and is looking into this along with Erika Schluntz.

3) IPO is creating a strategic plan and he wants input from the members of ISC about this. He is looking for a competent graduate student to assist with the drafting of this plan.

4) He will be hosting a delegation from Hessen in early April at the request of UMass/Dartmouth.

5) He is going to re-start the faculty internationalization grants which can help faculty research new program sites or bring new information back to their courses. He wants ISC to help draft the guidelines and select awardees. At the next ISC meeting he will ask for volunteers for a sub-committee.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes from the February 7, 2011 meeting of ISC were unanimously approved.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Unanimous.

Submitted by Elizabeth Brabec (LARP) and L. Foster-Moore, IPO