International Studies Council

Minutes, March 12, 2012

Present: M. Christine King, Chair. Jack Ahern, Nigar Khan, Margaret Allard, Pat Vokbus, Carolyn Cave, Brigid Thompson, Razvan Sibii, Steve Forrest, Timothy Lang, Ashley Krause, Howard Peelle, Irena Bozin, Lisa Wexler.

Guests: Agustin Lao-Montes.

Minutes by Andrea Juno.

Meeting start: 4:08 PM.

1. Introduction of a new member: Lisa Wexler from SPHHS.

2. ISC February 6, 2012 minutes: approved unanimously.

3. Update on Agenda: Elizabeth Brabec was unable to attend the meeting but would like her Eleuthera, Bahamas program presented at another time this semester.

4. Christine King reminds the group May 3 will be the deadline for this academic year to present programs in time to go to the Faculty Senate.

5. Agustin Lao-Montes and Amilcar Shabazz presented the Cuba Faculty-Led Study Abroad Summer 2012 Program:
   a. Lao-Montes discusses the program built on two classes on the Historical Sociology of the African Diaspora in the Americas, the travel plans to Havana and Santiago de Cuba, and course description.
   b. This is the third proposal to Cuba presented to ISC this year.
   c. Lao-Montes, with Ashley Krause’s assistance, is still working out the budget.
   d. Howard Peelle thanks Lao-Montes and Shabazz for the work, and on the exemplary job they did with the course description.
   e. Discussion on tie-ins with this program to other departments such as art and music.
   f. Vote taken: Unanimous approval.

6. Process and Criteria for reviewing Faculty/Staff Internationalization Grants from IPO by Jack Ahern:
   a. The grants awarded last semester have been sent to ISC members.
   b. This is the second round of grants for the 2012-13 academic year. Of the 33 applications there was a good distribution from all the colleges.
   c. HFA and SBS are funding 2 grants each, split with IPO, other Schools and Colleges are only funding 1 grant each.
   d. ISC members are invited to review and rank the applications.
   e. Members need not feel they have to rank all of the applications. If they feel they are not prepared to judge some subjects or feel any conflict, they can skip ranking them. They can review all or only 1.
   f. The criteria are explained in the handouts and have been refined by experiences from last semester’s grant.
Internationalization is broadly defined and doesn’t necessarily need to include travel. An enduring program that can/is likely to be repeated each year is preferable. Priority order: Gen. Ed. courses, large required classes in a major, and electives.

Grants also welcomed for: new short-term programs, new exchanges, diversifying demographics or geographic areas, or ways to serve our international students here on campus.

Summer 2012 and 2013 is an overlap period in which the applicant can choose what academic year it will be used.

When the proposal winners finish they will present their work to ISC.

Christine discussed the Nursing College’s experience being a motivator for the department. They met as a group and came to a consensus together on the submission they choose.

Please submit suggestions on criteria or refining the grant process.

7. Dual Degree Discussion
   a. IPO has done some work on various issues including investigating what our peer university are doing.
   b. In September 2011, an ISC subcommittee was formed and Elizabeth Brabec volunteered to chair it. No meetings have been scheduled to date.
   c. A discussion on domestic and international dual degrees and an interest to have a functioning committee.
   d. There is a lot of interest in dual degrees. Khan pointed out that already a student was promised a dual degree but couldn’t do it because the structure was not in place.
   e. ACTION: King will contact Brabec if she is still interested in chairing the sub-committee. If she isn’t, then ISC should select someone else.
      —Several members volunteered to be in the group: Khan among them. Some names were mentioned from outside the group that should be approached for the committee: Daphne Patai in LLC, Andrew (?), Klaus Nusslein, microbiology, David McKenna from Institute of Global Health, and Lisa Wexler from SPHHS.
      —Ahern volunteered to chair the Dual Degree subcommittee.

8. IPO Director’s Report by Ahern:
   a. International Risk Management Committee has been working on emergency protocols, implementation, University business policy and an online travel registry.
   b. IPO has been investigating organizing a focus group to hear from international students on what they need, what is working, what is not, etc.
   c. IPO has initiated more activities for the international students:
      i. 100 international students have been pair with UMass students as buddies for a wide range of support, participating in events and receiving help. It’s off to a good start.
      ii. A planned New York City bus trip on April 7 to the Metropolitan Museum has been sold out.
      iii. IPO will hold a Kite Festival on April 23 as part of the Earth Day activities to celebrate the many diverse cultures that participate in flying kites.
      iv. IPO has heard from many international students that they want to have more fun activities. Please send Ahern any suggestions for more events.
   d. March 7 IPO held a Passport Day to promote internationalization on campus. The Post office sent representatives to process passports and IPO subsidized photos. The attendance was large and consisted in mostly faculty and staff.
e. On April 4, IPO is holding a Fulbright Scholarship workshop for faculty and staff. A representative of Fulbright from Wash., DC will conduct a presentation from 12:00 to 2:00pm and then till 5:00pm will hold individual consultations. We have had a good response and have already filled the individual consulting slots.

f. Starting March 13, IPO is hosting a series of lunch round tables with selected faculty familiar with Korea, India, China, and Brazil. The goal is to learn from the faculty what interests they have in new exchanges and joint research. The goal is to have sustained country-specific discussions.

9. A discussion started about the serious lack of adequate ESL programs.
   a. Internationalization is growing but it is not matched by ESL support. Example: we are getting a lot of funded students from Iraq, a needed stream of money, but we don’t have the ESL programs on campus.
   b. Margaret Allard mentioned that 10 years ago the university cut ESL by a third. She is only one of the 2 people in the ESL program.
   c. There was great concern by the members that the university needs to address this problem.

10. Meeting adjourned at 5:20pm.