International Studies Council

Minutes, April 2, 2012

Present: M. Christine King, Chair. Jack Ahern, Nigar Khan, Irena Bozin, Margaret Allard, Valerie Kurka, Bradley Bolin, Peter Stern, Carolyn Cave, Elizabeth Brabec, Razvan Sibii, Steve Forrest, Howard Peelle, Ashley Krause. (Sonia Alvarez was unable to attend.)

Minutes by Andrea Juno.

Meeting starts: 4:03 PM.

1. Introduction of New ISC member: Bradley Bolin, who replaces Valerie Kurka as the Graduate Student representative.

2. Next Meeting will be May 7, in CC room 165.

3. Discussion of Membership:
   a. Since Rosa Rodriguez-Monguio, SPHHS, is still a member, Lisa Wexler, also from SPHHS, is not officially a member, but can attend the meetings as an extra interested person and can join next academic year.

   ACTION:
   —In May, we should review the ISC membership list to replace inactive members and fill vacancies.

4. Correction of Minutes from last meeting (March 12, 2012):
   a. Amend attendance and presentation of Prof. Amilcar Shabazz who is co-teaching with Prof. Agustin Lao-Montes, a Cuba Faculty-Led Study Abroad Summer 2012 Program. Shabazz did not attend the ISC presentation, only Lao-Montes presented.
   b. Vote taken to approve minutes with correction: Unanimous approval.

5. COPE Discussion of Eleuthera, Bahamas, Short Term Faculty-Led Study Abroad presented by Prof. Elizabeth Brabec.
   a. The current proposal previously submitted is for a course offering in the Spring semester 2013 instead of 2012, Spring Semester.
   b. Ashley Krause, IPO, and Elizabeth Brabec discussed the budget. A funder (Anthropology) backed out so the budget does not include that funding. If Anthropology joins; the budget will look almost identical to LARP’s. The need to have two faculty or staff participating was emphasized.
   c. Elizabeth leaves the room before the vote.
   d. The committee approves acceptance of program unanimously.

6. Discussion of Reconstitution of Dual Degree Committee:
   a. It is proposed to have a report for the next ISC meeting from a reconstituted Dual Degree subcommittee.
   b. Elizabeth Brabec gave a summary last fall of her preliminary work. She listed people that she, Nigar Khan, and Jane Miller contacted that had an interest in working on the
subcommittee: Andy Barto, Klaus Nüsslein, Daphne Patai, David Smith, Jose Ornelas and Chris King.

c. Discussion from Nigar Khan of the historical background of dual degrees on campus. The Grad school had initiated it for a Masters or PhD student to get 2 degrees from both UMass and an international school. It was not brought before the Faculty Senate because of concerns and questions. It was then brought to ISC.

d. The administration asked whether there were implications of our accreditation status.

**ACTIONS:**

— It was agreed to form a dual degree subcommittee.
— Jack Ahern, will chair the subcommittee and will look at campus peers and see what they do. (Many top ranked colleges have dual degrees.) Also look at NEASC schools.
— Ahern will schedule a meeting the week of April 23rd and report back at the next ISC meeting.


From **Institutional** section:

a. “**Review current efforts...**”: Haven’t done this; needs help.

b. “**Review efforts by peer universities...**”: Report to be completed (April 2012) by Education Advisory Board, initiated by Vice Chancellor, Jean Kim. Includes support: How do we get internationalization on campus, including revenue, but avoid having revenue be the driver? ESL support. Report will be forthcoming and will address many of these issues.

c. “**Create a committee to study building an International Student Center ...**”: Interesting but nothing has been done. Hope to interest the new Chancellor. IPO offices are scheduled to move in 2013 to Goodell (Honors College is moving to new building).

d. “**Include faculty representatives in Fall Orientation...**”: Discussing with IPO International Staff. Not easy but will try. IPO will have a Dean to give a welcoming talk.

e. “**Identify an International Coordinator within each department**”: Some schools have a coordinator, most don’t. We should encourage each college to have one. Good to have incentives, give a reason to create one and have an umbrella for all of the coordinators to work together. Perhaps do it on a school level rather than a department level. The idea is to plant the seeds into the departments.

From **Faculty** section:

f. “**Sponsor Brown Bag faculty colloquia**”: IPO has been conducting country-specific focus groups to explore interests. Ashley Krause has been holding meetings with faculty to make them aware of her position and short term programs. Howard Peelle suggests enlisting the departments to hold them. If there was an international coordinator it would be easier.
— Perhaps get a grad student, although it was pointed out that grads are expensive.
— Undergrad peer counselors.

g. “**Create opportunities for individual faculty consults with Center for Teaching...**”: Providing faculty with support for international curriculum and global initiatives, with push from leadership. Valerie Kurka, CIE: internationalization is more than traveling, it also the attitude of the faculty. Professors should be aware of international students and varying English skills and different cultures. Perhaps an issue for the Center for Teaching to engage?

h. “**Conduct departmental workshops for faculty...Internationalization awareness ...**”: Nothing done on this but will keep in mind.
From Student section:

i. “Survey international students' perspectives...”: IPO had to cancel our international students focus group because of lack of response from the students. We will pick another time in the Fall and continue with small targeted meetings of international student leaders.

j. “Invite a panel of international students to share their experiences”: This will be part of our future focus groups. Also, IPO is working on a vision report and is interviewing many students to feature in the booklet; to paint a picture of internationalization on campus.

k. “Arrange a “buddy” system...”: IPO has started a Buddy program and now has 100 buddy pairs. On April 27 we are having a pizza party to survey, debrief, and learn from them. This will be a permanent part of IPO and we hope to see this grow. We are recruiting existing international students and Study Abroad students. We will report back.

l. SUMMARY: What can ISC do to assist IPO's efforts? Help would be welcome: organizing focus groups in the Fall, the Center for Teaching, and create coordinators.
   i. Suggestions: members know their departments and could help pilot the programs.
   ii. Do we want a subcommittee on faculty development, or a subcommittee on coordinators, or Brown Bag faculty colloquia, or should it only come out of IPO?
   iii. Bring in faculty by having monthly debates and draw students into the debate.
   iv. Use radio for exposure. The faculty can talk about current international issues, politics, etc., for more academic exposure.
   v. Howard: The Honors Council came up with the idea of having a panel and a House of Commons-style debate.
   vi. Need to generate representatives in each college and/or department.

   ACTIONS:
   —We will take this up for next meeting to start in the Fall.
   —Need to get more people involved, not just ISC members.
   —ISC should form a subcommittee on Faculty Involvement in Internationalization.
   Steve Forrest seconds the idea.

8. IPO’s new initiatives in Fall:
   a. Extend concept of Orientation—instead of jammed into 3 days, we are extending it throughout the fall semester and possibly the academic year.
   b. Exploring walk-in help sessions in the library 2 evenings a week on various issues: visa, personal, academic courses. IPO will staff this.

9. Discussion of Membership for Fulbright Academy (Howard Peelle):
   a. Howard lists benefits of Academy and recommends institutional membership. This is not the Fulbright Society. This is an independent group with a focus only on science and technology. You have to be a Fulbright alumnus to join.
   b. Jack agreed to review the material.
   c. IPO is already committing to co-host a Fulbright Chair and is reluctant to commit more financial resources.

10. Update on the International Risk Management Committee (IRMC) chaired by Jack Ahern:
    a. IRMC is working on a software registry for all international (and domestic) travel for the entire campus and is looking at a new process to approve faculty travel.
    b. 2 related issues:
i. Trying to define university travel, and
ii. Defining emergency protocols.

Will report back on progress.

11. IPO Director’s Report (Jack Ahern):
   a. Have had a series of country-specific round tables to explore faculty interest, needs and knowledge. Have held 4: Korea, India, China and Brazil.
      i. These are starting points and will continue.
   b. Jack is going to Brazil on an IIE sponsored trip to build partnerships in Brazil.
      i. IPO wants deeper more substantive relationships with institutions: research collaborations and exchanges.
   c. IPO has held, and will be holding, international student field trips:
      i. The first was a New York City bus trip to the Metropolitan Museum. Very successful with a full bus.
      ii. Planning a kite festival for April 23 as part of the Earth Day festivities. Want to attract the many various international students with traditions in kite flying: from Haiti to China to Pakistan.
   d. Working with ONSA on supporting more staff and resources for Fulbrights. More applications will likely mean more Fulbrights.
   e. IPO is co-hosting a Fulbright chair from Brazil with 3 other partners to split $15,000 for 3 years to pay for housing. Sonia Alvarez is working on this. A different professor comes each year for 1 semester.

12. Meeting adjourns: 5:35pm.