1) **Minutes** of April 4, 2011 approved. Motion Peter Stern, seconded Guy Lanza. All in favor.

2) **COPE Action Item**
A motion was made to review the proposed agreement:
“The agreement the exchange of undergraduate and graduate students and faculty between the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Buenos Aires, Argentina.”

Steve Schreiber spoke to this proposal on behalf of Max Page. Building off the success of the TU Berlin program, his agreement is part of Architecture’s drive to internationalize its students, and strengthen the university’s connections in Latin America. He is confident that Architecture students (and faculty) will participate.

The following is a brief synopsis of the proposal:
The University of Massachusetts Amherst and Universidad Torcuato Di Tella agree to implement student exchange activities provided for in the Agreement on Education and Research.

1. The participating exchange students can be either graduate or undergraduate. Enrollment will be based on the recommendation of UTDT and UMA in consultation with the responsible professors affirming the academic, linguistic and personal qualifications of the candidates. Both Universities will receive up to 3 students from each other per year.

2. A member of the faculty will be identified at each institution to act as tutor (advisor) for the students of the other institution with regard to both academic and personal matters. Each institution will identify a member of its staff to coordinate all activities in relation to the contract at his/her institution. This person will at the same time act as a contact for the partner institution.

3. Both universities also agree to facilitate and encourage the exchange of one or more professors per year for one week. In that sense, the host institution will afford the accommodation cost of the guest professor, while travel expenses and medical insurance will be afforded by the guest professor or his/her home institution, according to internal procedures of the sending institution. The
faculty exchange visits may be extended with the prior agreement of both institutions.

When questioned whether the requisite 2 years of college-level Spanish language instruction would be sufficient for UMass students, Steve Schreiber indicated that students in need of Spanish language instruction could enroll in a 1-month immersion program, prior to the start of the fall semester.

3) Approval
A motion was made to approve the agreement; it was seconded and voted unanimously.

4) COPE Action Item
A motion was made to review the proposed summer session course, “Cultural Landscapes: Documentation, Values and Policy,” taking place in the Czech Republic. Stephen Forrest informed the council that COPE had already vetted the proposal. Elizabeth Brabec (LARP) described the course as designed for landscape architects, planners and other professionals interested in the identification, understanding, documentation and policy implications of cultural landscapes. The field study component of the course, held in association with faculty and graduate students from the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague, will focus on the identification and documentation of existing above-ground resources specific to vernacular landscapes such as historic field patterns, remnants of past layers, and the continual adaptation of sites and structures over hundreds years of occupation. It will also address the issues of contested heritage, and the impacts of war, migration and ethnic cleansing on the cultural landscape and “ownership” and interpretation of heritage. Students participating in this course will view on-line lectures and be given reading requirements prior to departure; there will also be coursework upon their return. Students participating in this summer session program will receive 6 credits.

Discussion followed:
Questions were raised concerning the awarding of credits, given the new federal credit guidelines, now posted on the NEASC website. Elizabeth felt, and COPE members concurred, that this course would meet the new standards.

5) Approval
A motion was made to approve the program; it was seconded and voted unanimously.

6) Report from Student Health Insurance Ad Hoc Committee – Action Item
The ad hoc committee on student health insurance met several times this academic year, with representatives from UHS, to seek out a more affordable insurance alternative for incoming international students. The high cost of the university-mandated student insurance policy has proven to be a roadblock for some incoming students; although exact numbers are not available, the university has lost potential exchange students, and potential exchange partners, due to this fee. We have also lost potential incoming Fulbright scholars, who have chosen to study elsewhere due to our fee. At the subcommittee’s request, moving forward, UHS has agreed to allow the Fulbright
Commission’s own insurance to substitute for the UMass-mandated insurance – this is a significant step forward. Building on this progress, the committee would like IPO to try to gather data on peer institution practices in order to bring a recommendation forward to the administration concerning health insurance for all incoming exchange students. The committee has prepared a substantive report on their work this year, the final draft of which has been submitted to the Council for review. (See accompanying document)

7) Approval
ISC voted to highly endorse the committee’s report.

8) IPO Director’s Report
Jack brought forward an IPO draft proposal concerning individual credit and non-credit, faculty-supervised student travel, and independent faculty travel. At this time, there is neither oversight nor tracking of independent UMass travelers. In light of possible international risk issues, IPO would like to work on a system, utilizing its StudioAbroad system database, to track such travelers. ISC members encouraged IPO to work on this process; no action required.

Jack also brought forward a proposal to revitalize the now moribund IPO Faculty Internationalization Grant, whereby IPO would award UMass faculty travel grants with the aim of internationalizing the curriculum, expanding or cultivating study abroad programs / exchanges, exploring locations intended for future faculty-led study abroad programs, strengthening collaboration with existing international partners, etc. ISC members were enthusiastic about reviving this program, which Jack declared was a fortunate response, as several of them would be needed to serve on the award selection committee, beginning next fall. No action required.

Meeting Adjourned 5:16