Minutes

International Studies Council

September 12, 2011

Attendance: Jose Ornelas, Elizabeth Brabec, Howard Peelle, Steve Forrest, Irena Bozil, Peter Stern, Pat Vokbus, Russ Tessier, Zhongwei Shen, Yariv Levy, Erika Schluntz, Jane Miller

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m. with introductions of members of the committee.

Minutes from the meeting May 2, 2011 were approved.

The ISC report was delivered by Erika Schluntz, designee of the Director of IPO, Jack Ahearn.

- IPO Internationalization Grant – Jack circulated a draft proposal last May; he will submit final proposal/guidelines for Monday. Jack would like ISC representatives (from each College, if possible) to serve on the selection committee.
- International Risk Assessment and Advisory Committee (IRAAC) – we’ve been working with Ruth Yanka, chair of the Committee on Enterprise Risk Management, to put together a proposal for the Provost to initiate IRAAC. The proposal (attached to these minutes) calls for one ISC representative to serve on the committee.
- Dual Degree Programs – the possibility of UMass partnering with a foreign institutions to award dual degrees has had limited success in the past couple of years. Jack now has a grad student doing some background research among our peer institutions, and other NEASC schools, to get comparative data. At the dual degree discussion during last March’s ISC meeting, attended by Bryan Harvey, John Mullin and Ernie May, it was suggested that an ISC ad hoc committee be put together, to work with NEASC of program approval. ISC should do that now.
- Building on the work of the ad hoc committee on Cultivating Cross-Cultural Awareness, could ISC chose two or three recommendations, among the several suggested in their Special Report, which IPO, or IPO with ISC support, could put into place this year?
- Concerning the Student Health Insurance Ad Hoc Committee’s report from last spring, IPO this fall will gather data on peer institution practices, so that ISC later in the year can bring a recommendation forward to the administration concerning health insurance for all incoming exchange students.

Chairperson Jane Miller led a discussion of the ISC’s upcoming goals and objectives for the year. There were three primary areas in which ISC members were asked to participate. All committee members were asked to sign up for either the fall of 2011 or the spring of 2012 to review faculty and staff internationalization grants. In addition, all members were asked to sign up for service on the dual degrees task force, the faculty development of international awareness (FDIA) task force or Cope. The following assignments were made:
Fall reviews of internationalization proposals: Steve Forrest, Irena Bozil, Peter Stern, Pat Vokbus, Russ Tessier

Spring reviews of internationalization proposals: Jose Ornelas, Zhongwei Shen, Elizabeth Brabec

Dual degrees: Jose Ornelas, Elizabeth Brabec

FDIA: Howard Peele

There was further discussion of the need to recruit new members to the ISC. Resignations were received from Guy Lanza, Ray Mahoney, Zhongwei Shen and Yariv Levy. Members of the committee agreed to recruit “internationally-oriented faculty” for the ISC.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.
The International Risk Assessment and Advisory Committee (IRAAC), appointed by the Chancellor, would be charged to develop guidelines and formulate risk mitigation policies and procedures to maintain the health and safety of University of Massachusetts Amherst students, faculty and staff who study or conduct research and/or business internationally. The IRAAC would be chaired by the Vice Provost for International Programs and would report to the Provost.

The committee will also take the lead role, in coordination with the University’s International Travel Insurance provider, to support and assist faculty, staff, and students when they are faced with emergencies while traveling or in residence abroad. Emergencies may include outbreaks of violence, political unrest, natural disasters or medical emergencies. Other services are available on campus to support travelers when they return or to support IRAAC as necessary. These services include: counseling services, medical services, international travel insurance services, and crisis management services.

1. Proposed Committee Membership:

Vice Provost for International Programs (chair)

- Director of Education Abroad
- Committee on Enterprise Risk Management (CERM) Chair, or designee
- Dean of Students, Assoc. VC Student Affairs (or designee)
- Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, Export Control Officer (or designee)
- Chair, International Studies Council (faculty representation) (or designee)
- Associate Counsel
- Senior Insurance Analyst, UM Treasurer’s Office

The Committee will solicit advice from other university members as situations warrant. The team may be called upon to convene by phone, e-mail, or in person.

IRAAC decisions based a majority of members voting.

2. Purpose
The IRAAC would be charged with assessing levels of risk inherent in countries or regions for which there are significant health or safety concerns and where University-related instructional, research or service-related programs and travel are occurring or proposed. Such countries or regions include, but are not limited to, those that fall under US State Department Travel Warnings or Advisories. The University is dedicated to preserving academic freedom and the robust research agenda of its faculty and students, while ensuring the safety of all its community members.

3. Policies

Working with related departments, the committee would develop and implement policies for risk management and mitigation, including:

Maintaining an international travel registry (mandatory for undergraduates, recommended for graduate students and faculty)

Maintaining a (regularly-updated) list of restricted countries and regions.

Providing travel advice, guidelines, and resources for students, faculty and staff.

Communications procedures regarding reporting/press releases on international travel incidents and issues to the media.

Policy on pre-departure orientations and information (mandatory participation? topics?).

Policy for approving/restricting travel destinations (what level of risk is acceptable? for which destinations?).

Policy for emergency evacuation and/or provision of emergency assistance (medical, financial, etc.)