International Studies Council Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2010

Present: Donal Carbaugh CH (Comm), Steve Forrest (Lang., Lit., & Cult), José Ornelas, (Lang., Lit., & Cult), Elizabeth Brabec (LARP), Howard Peelle (TECS), Michael Coblyn (Art), Zhongwei Shen Lang., Lit., & Cult), Guy Lanza (Environmental Sciences), Jitesh Khushalani (Undergraduate), Nate Therien (FCI), Nigar Khan (Graduate School), Tayeb El-Hibri (Near Eastern Studies), Erika Schluntz (IPO), Pat Vokbus (IPO), Frank Hugus (IPO), Jane Miller (SOM).

1) Donal Carbaugh, Chair of ISC called the meeting to order.
2) Minutes of the October 4, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved.
3) Report of the Chair of ISC (Donal Carbaugh): Donal announced the appointment of Jane Miller as chair of the ISC, beginning in the Spring semester of 2011.
4) Report of the Director of IPO (Frank Hugus):

**Site visits by Director Hugus: Germany**

Early July: Frank Hugus visited the Technical University of Berlin and the Technical University of Darmstadt. Both are excellent institutions; TUD has particularly impressive facilities (and is the only autonomous university in Germany). The Director also visited the University of Freiburg to discuss, among other things, how to mark the 50th anniversary of the relationship (2014).

**IPO hosted the following visitors:**

- Verena Bremer, University of Konstanz, September 8 – 9 to discuss a possible faculty exchange in addition to student exchange; there were also visits from the Universities of Manchester, Kent, Umea and Braude College, Israel.
- A group of 20 senior administrators (including several Rektors) from Germany, arrived on September 30 to discuss accreditation (addressed by: Chancellor Holub, Marilyn Blaustein, Jim Kurose, John Mullin, Ernie May, Ted Djaferis, and Todd Diacon).
- A Fulbright representative from Sri Lanka.
- A delegation from Novgorod State University to discuss collaboration on FIPSE grant (Public Health) and possible double Master’s degree; an agreement is forthcoming.

IPO also has an upcoming visit from the Vice Rector of International Relations from U. of Oviedo; Harbin Institute of Technology.

**Possible Agreements**

- University of Graz; this would in part be a result of a dual-MA-degree project in Jewish Studies, involving UMass, Juedische Hochschule of Heidelberg, University of Graz (Austria), University of Pisa, Jagelonian University (Poland), and Ben Gurion University. F.H. attended a U. Graz reception at the Austrian Cultural Forum in NYC.
University of Sao Paolo, Brazil, and UMass have initiated discussions on entering into an exchange agreement to allow joint supervision of PhD dissertations and a double doctoral degree. (Nigar explained that the double doctoral degree would involve joint advising at the dissertation stage. There would be a one-year residency requirement and the student would receive degrees from both universities. The details are still being addressed and the program would be subject to approval by the Graduate Council and the ISC). Director Hugus expressed the need for parity (equal numbers of students from both institutions).

- Discussions with SOM re: an exchange agreement with Stockholm University.

### International Scholars Program

ISP is a joint effort between IPO and the CHC. The ISP Board has been discussing an ISP certificate program. A proposal has been drafted and is currently being studied by a sub-committee.

### Boren Awards

- On-campus scholarship deadline is December 1; submission deadline for Fellowships is February 1, for Scholarships it is February 10.
- FH attended a Boren Awards workshop in NYC on September 20.
- Two on-campus information sessions were held (with fewer in attendance than last year).
- Eight applications for the Scholarships have been started.
- At least two graduate students are considering applying for the Boren Fellowship.
- An on-campus review committee will be needed. The director will be calling on ISC members to serve as reviewers.

Pat Vokbus reported on work in progress regarding an exchange between the University of Stockholm and the School of Management.

5) Report of the Chair of COPE (Stephen Forrest):

The committee reviewed the six credits for the COPE/Argentina program and reapproved the proposal.

6) Report of the Cross-Cultural Awareness Committee (Howard Peelle):

A committee of 17 members has been formed. The committee is delving into some complex issues in an effort to develop faculty awareness of internationalization of the campus. To that end, they are attempting to gather information in order to:

- Find out what is happening on campus regarding cross-cultural awareness;
- Compare UMass to other peer institutions;
- Inform the decision as to whether to recommend a needs assessment;
- Do or recommend a survey of international students;
- Do (or recommend) a survey of international students;
- Do (or recommend) a survey of faculty.
It was noted that there are a number of electronic survey programs available, one of which is used by IPO.

7) Report of Health Committee (Elizabeth Brabec):

The committee has discussed various issues related to international student health insurance. They have noted a disparity in how the university treats domestic and international students. Domestic students can self-certify whereas international students cannot, even if they have identical insurance. This situation puts the university at a competitive disadvantage when competing for Fulbright and other awards. Pat Vokbus explained that state law does not allow international students to be insured in their own country, but is not explicit about what to do if an international student has comparable insurance in the U.S. Although it is not consistent across the campuses, UMass Amherst requires international students to purchase UMass student insurance.

8) Other business:

José Orvelos provided an update on the Haitian relief effort.

The meeting was adjourned.