Minutes - ISC meeting- November 12, 2008 (submitted by Sherry Bohonowicz)

Attended by: Pat Vokbus, Elena Khatskevich, Donal Carbaugh, Frank Hugus, Erika Schluntz, Chris Roberts, Nigar Khan, Irena Bozin-Mirkovic, Raymond Mahoney, Sangeeta Kamat

1) Approval of the October 8th, 2008 minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes; it was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

2) Announcements
   • International Education Week will be held November 17-21, 2008. The School of Management is holding a week-long celebration. Frank Hugus will send a list of all International Education Week activities happening on campus or in the Five College area to all ISC members.
   • Nigar Khan spoke about a self study (based on the Ohio report) the Graduate School is participating in; information from this study will be given to the Chancellor.

3) IPO Director Report
   • Frank reported on three visits to the UMass Amherst campus. October 27th, 2008 a visit by Hokkaido University professors of Science and Math. October 28th, 2008 a visit from Hokkaido University of Education (no relation to Hokkaido University.) October 16th, 2008 a visit from Sciences PO (Paris, France); Sciences Po would like to renew an old relationship that has currently been suspended.
   • Rick Taupier will host a visit from Mongolian University of Science and Technology which is looking into research programs.

4) Report by Nigar Khan of the International Operations Committee (IOC)
   Members of the IOC are:
   John Mullin and Nigar Khan, Graduate School, Paul Kostecki and Marla Michel, Research Affairs, Frank Hugus and Erika Schluntz of IPO, and Rick Taupier, Environmental Research.
   Rick Taupier coordinates this committee which is working on centralizing international operations on campus. The philosophy of the IOC is to coordinate international relations between the Graduate School, Research Affairs and the International Programs Office. Currently the IOC is working on putting together the following lists:
   • a list of all MOU’s,
   • a list of faculty involved in research or teaching in other countries,
   • an international graduate student list,
   • a Fulbright list.
   The IOC is also working on;
   • standardizing procedures for writing an MOU,
   • creating a protocol for international visitors.
Discussion followed:

- A template for MOU’s has already been established in IPO.
- Protocol is different for each visit making it hard to establish one single protocol procedure to follow.
- IPO should be informed of Faculty with International connections. It would be helpful to have access to the publication and teaching information available on the Annual Faculty reports.
- The IOC along with the graduate school is focusing on dual degrees: they are working on a regional-planning Masters with a Xiamen University which will enable graduate students to receive two degrees in regional planning one from UMass and one from the Chinese University. They are also involved with a program called Cotutelle (pioneered in France and Australia) to allow doctoral students to receive separate degrees from two universities, one in this country and one abroad.
- Donal Carbaugh raised the question of whether the IOC might be better served with a faculty member of ISC also being a member of IOC.

5) Report by UMass/Living Routes sub-committee

The committee is in receipt of site visits and student evaluations from Findhorn, Scotland and Auroville, India. The committee will present its findings at the December ISC meeting and will invite Dan Greenberg of Living Routes to attend the December ISC meeting to share information and answer any questions that ISC members might have.

6) Other business

Pat Vokbus gave an update on the condition of international students Li Cai and Jinglan Wang. Li who was struck by a car on October 2nd has awakened from her coma and is doing fairly well at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. Faculty and staff from ISOM have raised $10,000 and found an apartment for her family. Jinglan who was injured when she went over the dam at Puffer’s Pond is making remarkable progress and is now walking without a cane.

Donal Carbaugh asked if anyone on the committee knew of an undergraduate student who would be interested in becoming a member of ISC.

Frank asked if any of the ISC committee members would be interested in serving on the Boren Scholarship committee. The Boren scholarship is available for students traveling to developing countries in area of the world like Asia and South America to study the language and the culture. In exchange for accepting this full scholarship, students promise to work for the federal government for one to two years. Chris Roberts volunteered to serve on this committee. Frank Hugus will send an email to all ISC members to see if anyone else would like to serve on the Boren Scholarship committee.

A sub committee was formed for International Education week and the names were forwarded to Richard Yam of IPO.

Frank Hugus is coordinating the recruitment and admissions sub committee. He is still looking for more members to serve on the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 PM