International Studies Council Meeting
February 7, 2011
Campus Center 911-915

Present: Jane Miller (Chair of ISC), Jack Ahern (Vice Provost and Director of IPO), Members: Pat Vokbus, Yariv Levy, Nigar Khan, Irena Bozin, Guy Lanza, Zhongwei Shen, Erika Schluntz, Regine John, Elizabeth Brabec, Nate Therrien, Michael Sugerman, Steve Forrest, Thor Tillberg, Russell Tessier, Howard A. Peelle, Peter Stern, Christina Sosa

1) Call to Order at 4h05pm
Minutes of last session unanimously approved.

2) Introduction of Vice Provost of International Programs & Director of IPO (Jack Ahern) followed by Q & A with the council

Jack Ahern
Short bio: undergrad @ UMass, left for a decade or so, then came back: Prof. in the Landscape Department. PhD in the Netherlands, visiting abroad, Fulbright fellowship. Created a short abroad class in Europe (Urban planning and design); hosted number of international scholars.

It was important for Jack that the position was not 100%. Now: 75% IPO, 25% departmental (teaching a class, research with graduate students). Very happy to be in the position (2-3 weeks now). IPO is in excellent shape. Frank Hugus did excellent work; IPO staff outstanding. Stable platform to work with.

Goals:
- Increase IPO's visibility across campus (faculty, department, deans, and others, which will beneficial to students)
- Planning exercise; learning about the new responsibilities of being Vice Provost
- Support the international education framework of the campus (accordingly to the Provost strategy): for example with GenEd
- Improving the international climate on campus
- Continued/additional support for Fulbright (incoming and outgoing)
- Increase focus on international students recruitment
- Create a network of Alumni around the world
- "Dreamy": idea of joint and dual degrees; ISL institute; Continuing Education for non-traditional international audience

Q&A:
- Update on the international dual degree program. Standing now at the Faculty Senate.
- Discussion on the reference to Asia in the job description
- Discussion about Middle East; maybe ISL a good idea to attract students
- How ISC can be helpful? Dual/joint degrees, and continue to tackle insurance issues

3) Report of Health Committee (Elizabeth Brabec)
Follow up meeting with members of the Committee is scheduled. Rules committee not really wanting to touch this issue, indicating a desire for information very difficult to get. The problem is real (some students don't join UMass because of insurance issues), but quantification is hard. Director of Health Services is negative on a change in insurance policies (fear of liability, financial benefits for negotiation, also less processing). We are continuing to meet, and expect a final report by the end of the semester.

4) Report of Cross-Cultural Awareness Committee (Howard Peelle or designee)
Four meetings last semester. Thanks to the Committee. Report was produced, and is now under review by the Rules committee. Main recommendations (out of a total of ~11-14):
- Need for review in current effort within campus related to cross-cultural awareness
- Review of peer institutions on the same issue

5) Adjourn - 5h10pm