

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL  
Minutes of Thursday, 15 October 2009  
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

**Members present:** Sheila Bair, Stephen Covell, Robert Dlouhy, Willem Homan, Wei-Chiao Huang (for Sisay Asefa), Yvette Hyter, Mary Lagerwey, Mushtaq Luqmani, Donald McCloud, Dini Metro-Roland, Lygia Mueller, Silvia Rossbach (for Stephen Malcolm), Vince Torano (for William Davis), Bill Woods. **Member absent:** Said AbuBakr. **Also present:** Lee Ryder and Rebecca Solomon, Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

**Procedural Items**

*Welcoming Remarks*

Bundza welcomed guests Rebecca Solomon and Lee Ryder from the Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE).

*Acceptance of the Agenda*

Hyter moved, seconded by Homan, to accept the agenda. Motion passed.

*Approval of the Minutes*

Hyter moved, seconded by Lagerwey, to approve the minutes of the 17 September 2009 meeting. Motion passed.

**Informational Items**

*Chair's Report – Maira Bundza*

Bundza reported that the timetable for input to the Provost's strategic plan has caused the IEC to move discussion of recommendations for the American Council on Education (ACE) Internationalization Laboratory from early spring semester 2010 to October and November of 2009. She asked that all IEC members participate in the discussions organized by the provost, in college international committees, in Haenicke Institute brown bag lunches, and elsewhere. Bundza suggested that at the end of the ACE Lab, we might prepare a table of prioritized strategic objectives similar to the one done for the University's sustainability initiatives.

*Immigration Report – Lee Ryder*

Ryder described her work as Immigration Officer for the University. Immigration Services is a unit of International Admissions and Services (IAS) within the Haenicke Institute. Her unit provides comprehensive immigration advising and

services to WMU international students, visiting scholars, foreign-national faculty and staff and their WMU hosting or sponsoring departments. Immigration Services is responsible for the status of all international students on campus, and Ryder urges faculty and staff to have their students contact her office if they are having academic difficulties.

*Haenicke Institute for Global Education – Bill Woods and Donald McCloud*

Dean McCloud announced that two new half-time positions have been created and filled. Michelle Metro-Roland will be Assistant to the Dean for Faculty and Global Program Development, and Jane Blythe-Warren will be Assistant to the Dean for Study Abroad and Global Program Development. They will start Monday, 19 October 2009.

Dean McCloud also announced that the formal opening of the Confucius Institute will take place on Monday, 23 November 2009. The Institute will have offices both in the Haenicke Institute and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Woods announced that a student exchange contract has been signed with the University of Cantabria in Spain. This program will allow the exchange of business majors between WMU and Cantabria, and will be particularly beneficial for our business students who have minors in Spanish. Exchanges may be for a year or a semester.

*International Admissions and Services – Rebecca Solomon*

Solomon described the operation of IAS, noting that it handles all international admissions. IAS prepares international transcript evaluation in-house, and is responsible for handling immigration matters through the Immigration Services unit that is part of IAS. IAS also assists in facilitating graduate admissions.

Solomon distributed statistics on international enrollments by country. Western has 1,254 international students from 90 countries for the fall semester 2009. She also noted that the yield rate – the percentage of those admitted that actually enroll – has been between 42.4% to 47.6 since spring semester 2007. McCloud commented that this yield rate is extremely high for any university, and commended the IAS for its work. Solomon noted that it is due to close communication and follow-up that the IAS pursues with admitted students.

*Michitoshi Soga Japan Center – Steve Covell*

Covell distributed a copy of the Center's mission statement and a list of current activities. He noted that the Soga Center is in its third year and has a relatively small endowment, but has a very active group of faculty and 600 people in Japan who are either graduates or associated in some way with WMU. The center has received substantial programming support from the Japan Foundation, including a two-year grant for an Outreach Coordinator. This position has been filled by Michiko Yoshimoto, who now works out of the center's office on the fourth floor of Ellsworth Hall. She assisted in the Symposium on Japanese Gender Studies

presented on campus in September, and is currently setting up a variety of programs in Kalamazoo, Portage, Mattawan, Saugatuck, and Battle Creek. The Kalamazoo Public Library's Reading Together selection for 2010 is *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson about racial issues after WWII.

Covell announced that the center has also received two additional grants from the Japan Foundation. One will bring two manga artists to Kalamazoo for workshops at WMU and Woods Lake Elementary School, the other will support a Japanese film series at WMU's Little Theatre during the spring semester.

#### *International Education Faculty Development Fund (IEFDF) – Steve Covell*

Covell reported on the IEFDF activities over the past academic year. Members of the committee for 2008-09 were Muralidhar Ghantasala (chair), Steven Covell, and Mervyn Elliot. (Ghantasala stepped down, Covell is now chair, and Jorge Rodriguez is now the third member.) There were 39 applicants last year, of which three were ineligible. Awards totaled \$37,350. Most awards were for \$1,000.

Covell noted that the committee meets in November and April, but this leaves a problem for faculty who need to travel in the early part of fall semester. Questions arose as to whether funds for the next academic year should be allocated in April, or whether faculty traveling internationally in early fall could expect to be granted funds retroactively. The committee will suggest modifications to the policy.

#### *Council Charges and Memoranda of Action – Mary Lagerwey*

Lagerwey reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Board accepted the slightly modified charges from the 18 June 2009 IEC minutes. They had received the MOAs the IEC had passed, but took no action because they did not have background information about the rationale for the changes. Lagerwey resent a memo from Brett Berquist dated 21 May 2009, explaining the rationale. The Executive Board had no problem with the intent of the MOAs but requested clarification of language prior to moving them forward to the Senate.

#### *Russian Festival and Other Upcoming Events*

Bundza mentioned that the Russian Festival will take place 14-21 November 2009. This is a community festival which is supported by various WMU departments and many of the events occur on our campus. See <http://www.russianfestival.org/> for more information.

Mueller announced that International Education Week will be 16-21 November 2009 and passed out a schedule of events.

## **Discussion/Action Items**

### *ACE Internationalization Laboratory*

Student Survey – Maira Bundza for Jason Burkhardt: Bundza thanked IEC members who contributed feedback to the survey. Dean McCloud has generously offered gift cards to the bookstore as incentives for students to take the survey. HIGE staff are now working on publicity for the survey.

Infrastructure and Support Working Group – Mushtaq Luqmani: Luqmani submitted a report of preliminary recommendations for infrastructure changes. Recommendations include: 1) more tenure-track faculty for teaching Global Studies courses; 2) explore more staffing for international degree and articulation partnerships; 3) improve international alumni relations by working closely with the WMU Alumni Association; 4) support an active network of international alumni clubs; 5) improve international research collaboration by working with the Office of the Vice President for Research; and 6) extend community outreach to local businesses with global operations.

Languages Working Group – Maira Bundza: The languages working group has met and will survey language requirements, languages taught and other policies at our official peer institutions.

Study Abroad Working Group – Mary Lagerwey: The group has met and has decided to approach the subject by doing a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis.

Global Learning Outcomes Working Group – Dini Metro-Roland: The group has met and realized the difficult position they have trying to make recommendations for the entire university. A process needs to be worked out for a university-wide discussion of global learning outcomes. Lagerwey suggested that Eileen Evans might be invited to participate in developing a plan for this, as it is related to the Higher Learning Commission accreditation process now underway.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Dlouhy  
IEC Secretary