

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes of Thursday, 19 November 2009
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members present: Said AbuBakr, Maira Bundza, Robert Dlouhy, Willem Homan, Wei-Chiao Huang (for Sisay Asefa), Lydia King, Mary Lagerwey, Mushtaq Luqmani, Donald McCloud, Dini Metro-Roland, Lygia Mueller, Silvia Roszbach (for Stephen Malcom).

Members absent: Sheila Bair, Stephen Covell, William Davis, Yvette Hyter, Bill Woods. **Also present:** Lee Balcom, Jason Burkhardt, Michelle Dini-Roland, Juan Tavares, Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

Procedural Items

Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

Bundza introduced Lydia King, the new Western Student Association undergraduate representative to the IEC, and welcomed Juan Tavares, general manager of international enrollment, and Michelle Dini-Roland, assistant to the dean for faculty and global development.

Acceptance of the Agenda

Huang moved, seconded by Homan, to accept the agenda modified to leave out Cat Fuller's report on international partnerships. Motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes

Mueller moved, seconded by D. Metro-Roland to approve the minutes of the 15 October 2009 meeting. Motion passed.

Informational Items

Chair's Report – Maira Bundza

Bundza reported that she and the American Council on Education (ACE) Internationalization Laboratory leadership committee continue to have monthly conference calls with Barbara Hill of ACE. Bundza will meet with the representatives from our ACE Lab cohort institutions on December 8 in Washington, D.C. The groups will share insights on the process at this meeting. Bundza continues to work with Lee Balcom on the report, and met with the provost to keep him informed of the progress being made in the ACE Lab process. Bundza has met with the Faculty Senate Executive Board regarding the status of last year's MOAs, and also with the Languages and Learning Outcomes Working Groups. Steve Covell informed Bundza that the International Education Faculty Development Fund has already received 30 grant applications this year.

Haenicke Institute for Global Education – Donald McCloud

Dean McCloud reported that the Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE) staff has been very busy with International Week. Malaysian Night held on November 18 hosted several dignitaries from Malaysia and had more than 100 people attending. The Russian Festival is continuing with on-campus and community events.

McCloud reported that two globalization brown-bag lunch discussions have been held. McCloud explained that the provost, as part of the University's strategic plan, wants faculty to discuss the definition of "global literacy." McCloud thinks that different definitions may be needed in different units of the University, and hopes to have closure on the definition(s) by the end of spring 2010. The next globalization brown-bag lunch is 2 December 2009.

Confucius Institute – Donald McCloud

Preparations for the Confucius Institute opening are proceeding. Six visiting professors and lecturers have already arrived. Four representatives from Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) and the Chinese Vice-Counsel-General from Chicago will attend opening ceremonies on Monday, November 23. Outreach has already been initiated with area school districts. Portage and Galesburg-Augusta districts have already expressed interest. The Confucius Institute faculty members will develop elementary- and secondary-level Chinese language programs and establish Confucius Classrooms to support the teaching of Chinese language and culture. The administrative office of the institute will be in Ellsworth Hall, and the faculty will have offices in Dunbar Hall.

International Student Recruiting – Juan Tavares

Tavares reported on strategies for recruiting and enrollment that International Admissions and Services are using. Western has a number of advantages over many other universities in terms of recruiting. We offer admission that is conditional on completion of the English requirement, an on-campus English as a Second Language program, and a "one-stop shop" which handles admissions, immigration, and programming for international students. The office maintains contact with applicants by mail, e-mail and phone, and consequently yield rates have averaged more than forty percent over the last year. The University actively recruits internationally, including the Middle East, Japan, Korea, and China. At present, efforts are being made to enroll more Chinese students.

Tavares mentioned a number of challenges facing international recruitment. Traveling, although the best method for recruiting, is taxing on the staff and pulls them away from their regular duties. Applications are not increasing, so the staff is working harder to attract the persons who have applied. Tavares mentioned that interest in twinning programs is increasing, and that Bill Woods and Cat Fuller are presently traveling to Indonesia, Hong Kong, and Korea to visit institutions interested in working with us. McCloud added that Western has joined an American credentialing organization that vets international recruiting firms. In many countries, students use such agencies to find universities for their clients and guide them through the application process. For example, Markham International Education Center with offices in Toronto and China recruits Chinese students.

Discussion/Action Items

Study Abroad Memoranda of Action – Mary Lagerwey

Lagerwey reported on the Faculty Senate Executive Board discussion with Bundza on the Study Abroad MOAs to be brought before the Faculty Senate at its December 3 meeting. The Executive Board suggested simplifying the MOAs and presenting them as additional language to the current catalog language. AbuBakr moved, seconded by McCloud, that the MOAs be approved as modified by the Faculty Senate Executive Board. Motion passed.

(1) MOA 09/07, Residency Requirement – Study Abroad

Existing catalog language: 7. Minimum residence requirements. All candidates must present a minimum of 30 hours through Western Michigan University. Ten of the last 30 hours must be taken through Western Michigan University. Correspondence credit and credit by examination may not be used to satisfy any of the minimum requirements. Individual colleges and departments may have additional residency requirements. Proposed additional language: **Courses completed in a WMU-sponsored study abroad program (i.e. listed on WMU's study abroad website as directly administered by WMU) will count toward the residency requirements for majors and minors. Courses taken in non-WMU study abroad programs will not count toward residency requirements.**

(2) MOA 09/08, Credit/No Credit - Study Abroad

Existing catalog language: 3. A student may elect for "Credit/No Credit" any course approved for General Education or General Physical Education credit, as well as other courses not counting toward his/her major or specified in his/her curriculum as defined in the University Undergraduate Catalog. Proposed additional language: **The same policy applies for approved courses taken at an overseas institution. Policy may vary across colleges.]** Intern Teaching, a required course, is however, taken on a credit/no credit basis. Acceptance of "Credit/No Credit" in required courses may be permitted on an individual basis by the head of the department or dean of the college requiring the course.

(3) MOA 09/09, Repeated Course - Study Abroad

Existing catalog language: The following is the general University policy regulating repeated courses. Some academic Colleges, however, have a somewhat different policy regulating students in academic programs within those Colleges. You are advised to seek the counsel of the academic advisors in the College advising offices regarding the specific repeated course policy for that College.

Any course in which a student may have been enrolled more than once is considered a repeated course. A grade must be presented for each course, and any course first elected for a letter grade must be elected for a letter grade when repeated. Proposed additional language: **If a student wishes to repeat a course taught by an overseas institution during study abroad, and the student's department can identify an appropriate equivalent course on campus, it may be repeated for credit.**

Student Survey – Jason Burkhardt reported that more than 1800 students responded to the survey. This strong response will allow a 95 percent confidence level for conclusions drawn from the data. Preliminary analysis shows that WMU is doing a reasonably good job at internationalization. A thorough analysis has not yet been done, but one will be added to the final draft ACE report.

Languages Working Group – Bundza reported that the group reviewed the language programs of the peer institutions. The group then discussed the phrase "familiarity with a foreign language" in the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan and decided that this represented a satisfactory step forward in the entire university context.

Study Abroad Working Group – Lagerwey reported that the group looked at peer institutions and recognized a need to clarify terminology.

Learning Outcomes Working Group – D. Metro-Roland reported that their group has looked at peers and noticed that few of those institutions mention global outcomes in their materials. The group also recognizes a need to clarify terminology.

Infrastructure Working Group – AbuBakr reported that he looked at the May 2007 Faculty Development working group report and realized that promotion and tenure issues are matters handled by the faculty union and department policies, so recommendations regarding global issues cannot be made in this area, though there were some other good ideas for faculty development in the report. The working group also looked at peer institutions and noted that if there is a dean of international studies at an institution there usually is an associated faculty, which is not the case at WMU.

ACE Lab Report – Lee Balcom reported that Eileen Evans' office is providing a large amount of useful institutional data. Version four of the report will be ready after Thanksgiving. Balcom is trying to create a "full" version of the report that can be trimmed later. IEC members are welcome to access the current draft on iWebfolio and add comments.

Academic Affairs Strategic Plan – Maira Bundza

Bundza asked for any comments on the strategic plan that she could forward to the provost. The IEC members present strongly supported strategies 1.1 and 1.3 - global literacy in the curricula and a familiarity with foreign languages. They would also like to encourage additional language in the plan to support international research collaboration and experience for graduate students.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Dlouhy
IEC Secretary