

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL  
Minutes of Thursday, 17 December 2009, 3 p.m.  
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

**Members present:** Said AbuBakr, Sheila Bair, Stephen Covell, Richard dePeaux (for William Davis), Robert Dlouhy, Wei-Chiao Huang (for Sisay Asefa), Yvette Hyter, Mary Lagerwey, Mushtaq Luqmani, Donald McCloud, Dini Metro-Roland, Sylvia Roszbach (for Steve Malcom), Bill Woods. **Members absent:** Willem Homan, Lydia King, Lygia Mueller. **Also present:** Eri Nishiyama, Ann Ganz, and Anastassia Kaml, Study Abroad Coordinators from Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE); Lee Balcom and Jason Burkhardt, doctoral assistants, HIGE; Michelle Metro-Roland and Jane Blythe Warren, HIGE.

**Procedural Items**

*Welcoming Remarks and Introductions*

Council Chair Bundza called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. She thanked members and guests for attending the meeting during the busy exam week, and introduced the three study abroad coordinators Eri Nishiyama, Ann Ganz, and Anastassia Kaml.

*Acceptance of the Agenda*

Huang moved, seconded by AbuBakr, to accept the agenda. Motion passed.

*Approval of the Minutes*

Huang moved, seconded by Bair, to approve the minutes, amended to correct the spelling of Michelle Metro-Roland's name in the attendance list and introduction. Motion passed.

**Informational Items**

*Chair's Report – Maira Bundza*

Bundza reported that she presented the modified study abroad MOAs at the Faculty Senate December 3 meeting. The MOAs were approved by the Senate, signed by Faculty Senate President John Jellies, and are now on the provost's desk. AbuBakr thanked Bundza and Lagerwey for their efforts.

Bundza reported that Bill Davis has been appointed to the President's Universitywide Sustainability Committee, thus creating a scheduling conflict with IEC meetings. Bundza will consult with the Faculty Senate Office about this conflict.

*Haenicke Institute for Global Education Report – Donald McCloud*

McCloud reported that the opening ceremonies for the Confucius Institute were very successful. He went to Beijing, China, for the worldwide meeting of Confucius Institutes, where he heard about programs at Confucius Institutes around the world and talked to their representatives. Interest in these programs is high in the West Michigan area, and the Portage Public Schools have already submitted a proposal to create a Confucius classroom that would provide resources for teaching Chinese language and culture.

*Study Abroad – Ann Ganz, Anastassia Kaml, Eri Nishiyama*

Kaml introduced the variety of study abroad programs available at Western. Although the number varies from year to year, right now Western offers 60 programs, 21 of which are led by WMU faculty. Program lengths vary from a few weeks to an entire academic year. External programs (not sponsored by WMU) are vetted carefully and approved for credit at WMU. The study abroad office maintains an online system to provide students and parents information about each program. Ganz reported that international internships are becoming popular for providing practical international experience. Credit for internships is possible, but the internship provider must work through the study abroad office for approval. Nishiyama reported on advising and financial support for study abroad students. Each of the three advisors is responsible for a geographic area. The advisors have walk-in hours, and they arrange peer-to-peer sessions where returned study abroad students can share experiences with students who are considering study abroad. Western does have financial support available for students studying abroad. Western sends 500-600 students abroad every year.

**Discussion/Action Items**

*American Council on Education (ACE) International Cooperative Annual Meeting*

The ACE International Cooperative annual meeting will be held February 4 - 5, 2010 in Arlington, VA. Three IEC members are eligible to attend. This meeting gives members a chance to meet and share ideas with representatives from other colleges and universities that have extensive international programs. Interested IEC members should contact Bundza.

*ACE Internationalization Laboratory*

Washington, D.C. Cohort Meeting: Bundza met in Washington, D.C. with members of our ACE Lab cohort to share experiences and findings. Ideally, the ACE Lab process is strongly related to the strategic planning process of an institution and IEC has the opportunity to have our recommendations considered in the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan. Most of the cohort group had come up with their list of recommendations, which usually numbered between nine and thirteen. Various ideas were discussed for presenting the reports to the community, to get the word out and get buy-in for the recommendations.

Bundza mentioned that a date for the ACE peer review team site visit to Western has not been set, but will occur in March 2010. The report needs to be finished well before the visit. The visit will be for three days. The peer review team will meet with our ACE Lab leadership committee, the IEC, deans, college international committees, the provost, the president, and other university personnel. At the end, they will give a verbal preliminary report.

Study Abroad Working Group: Lagerwey presented the report that included a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis of study abroad at Western. Strengths include a long tradition at Western for study abroad and a well-developed infrastructure supporting students and faculty. Weaknesses include a low percentage of students who study abroad, not enough financial support (or perceived support), as well as the difficulties in integrating study abroad courses into departmental curricula. The report included a comparison with peer institutions, in which Western compares well in most categories. The working group looked at languages offered through study abroad, available in various levels of language acquisition. The report presented a list of suggestions for improving study abroad.

Learning Outcomes Working Group: D. Metro-Roland reported that the group has done a SWOT analysis and peer comparison, and he presented a list of recommendations. The group looked at Western's General Education Areas III (The United States: Cultures and Issues) and IV (Other Cultures and Civilizations) with their clear and far reaching global learning outcomes which compare well to those of our peers. They looked at departmental mission statements and learning outcomes, at the role of college internationalization committees, the wording in the provost's strategic plan as well as the University's Mission Statement and goals for commitment to global learning.

Student Survey: Burkhardt presented a summary of the student survey which was taken by over 1800 students and focused on answering "How do WMU students view our progress towards the internationalization of the University, its programs, and its curriculum." Over 80% of the students were born in the U.S. and had not had many significant personal or academic international experiences. Questions with the highest average ratings were "I feel WMU respects and understands many cultural identities," "an education at WMU is accessible to people of many cultures," and "WMU is a safe place for people of all cultures to learn." Burkhardt is continuing the analysis and planning follow-up studies.

ACE Report: Balcom reported that Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness Eileen Evans has supplied Balcom with data gathered for the Higher Learning Commission and that she is going through that to pull out any data that may be useful for IEC, especially on international research. The draft of the ACE Internationalization Laboratory report continues to be revised, and is posted on iWebfolio. IEC members are welcome to login and add comments to the report.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Dlouhy, IEC Secretary