

International Education Committee (IEC)

Minutes

Friday, November 6, 2009

Chair: Vlatka Velcic

Recorder: Leslie Kennedy

Present: Eileen Bosch (Library), Ken Curtis (Center for International Education), Chris Druzgalski (Engineering), Craig Fleming (At-Large Theatre Arts), Simon George (Int'l Community Council), Rich Haesley (Liberal Arts), Elaine Haglund (Education), Mike Hostetler (Student Services), Teresa Hagen-Crowder (Staff Council/Univ Relations), Elaine Haglund (Resource Development), Nathan Jensen (Center for International Education), Yu Ji (The Arts), Tom Kelty (Natural Sciences/Mathematics), Leslie Kennedy (Academic Technology), Richard Marcus (International Studies), Catherine Martin-Dunlap (Natural Sciences/Mathematics), Nilufer Medora (Health/Human Services), Raul Reis (ACIP), José Rivera-Chang (At-Large, Design), Shadi Saadeh (Engineering), Edward Smith (Business Admin.), Vlatka Velcic (Chair, Liberal Arts), Emyr Williams (Study Abroad Subcommittee).

Absent Voting Members: Terre Allen (FCPD), Shuhua An (Education), David Anglin (At-Large Music), Juan Benitez (Center for Community Engagement), Hamdi Bilici (Business Administration), Michael Blazey (Liberal Arts), Elson Browne (Housing/Residential Life), Marilei Denila (Associated Students), Rebecca Groff (Student Athlete Services), Jennie Hurley (President's Scholars), Jeet Joshee (CCPE), Robin Lee (Career Development Center), Betsy McEneaney (Liberal Arts), Sharon Olson (Education Abroad/GLOBE), Laura Portnoi (Education), Lynne Richmond (CCPE), Carlos Silveira (The Arts), Sherry Vatter (At-Large, History).

Guests: Casey Burkard, (International Student Studies Association). Devin Benavidez (International Student Studies Association)

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m.

I. Introduction

- A. Agenda was approved.
- B. Minutes #2, October, 2009 approved unanimously.

II. Announcements/Reports

A. Global Engagement - Ken Curtis

Ken reported that he had traveled to Berlin to participate in a Fulbright program focusing on global engagement and German higher education. He also had the opportunity to visit CSULB students studying at the University of Hamburg.

B. Center for International Education – Nathan Jensen

Another staff member has resigned and unfortunately, her departure adds to the further reduction of personnel in the Center. The poor economy is affecting international undergraduate and graduate student enrollment. For example, there were 680 undergraduate students enrolled this fall compared to 719 last year. The graduate student enrollment is currently 496 compared to 551 last fall. In total,

there are 1,263 international students on campus. The graduate applications from India have declined significantly. Nathan is working with Dave Dowell, Tom Enders, and Ken Curtis to address the steady decline of international students. There has been some attempt to recruit students from community colleges, so key personnel are working on expanding relationships with local colleges.

C. Study Abroad – Nathan Jensen

It is remarkable that the study abroad programs continue to increase. For example, this winter session will include several self-support programs to Cambodia, India, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Belize, and Ecuador. The faculty-led semester program in London will take place in the spring, and this program has proven to create a valuable learning experience for students and professional development for instructors. However, there is discussion of suspending the program next year due to university budget constraints.

D. Miscellaneous Reports

- Richard Marcus, International Studies Program Director, reported the program's enrollment has grown significantly from 54 to approximately 200 students, and it is the only program with three dedicated faculty and nine-affiliated faculty. Many students are participating in education abroad instead of local internships. In general, study abroad programs have gone down – but intensive language programs and internships abroad have gone up. The diversity of where students are going is changing to meet the language speaking needs of the students, too. International Studies recently sponsored a career workshop, and the program is beginning to reform its curriculum in consultation with an advisory board.
- Yu Ji reported that two CSULB students returning from China held an exhibition displaying their experiences in a College of the Arts gallery, and 300 people attended. The associate dean of the college supported this endeavor in particular to encourage more students to participate in studying abroad. Yu Ji utilized his \$400 International Project Award to develop a brochure of the event and to highlight the CSULB international exchange in the arts.
- Raul Reis reported that there is a need for CSU resident directors to spend one year abroad, so he asked the IEC committee to encourage faculty participation for next year.
- The Wang Family Faculty Stipend is not receiving many applications. Even though we need to have invitations from a University in China for these slots, there usually are four to eight interested in taking advantage of the program. If anyone is interested, all information is online. There are research and teaching opportunities.
- The ACIP fall meeting will take place at the Chancellor's office, and the decision will relate to the Learn Spanish Program. Five universities in Spain anticipate 100 students from the CSU.
- A class concentrating on Brazil has been approved. Students will be able to sign up next June.
- Casey Burkard from the International Student Studies Association is working on coordinating the university international clubs to collaborate on projects. She has a new website which includes a calendar of international student events.

For Thanksgiving Casey recommended that IEC members invite an international student(s) for a turkey dinner.

- The International Studies Association potluck will take place Nov. 20 at the conclusion of International Week with two speakers sharing similar experiences from their countries.
- Eileen Bosch reported that the library's writers' resource lab has been reinstated and is available to all students this semester.
- Chris Druzgalski commented on how difficult it is for international students to register for classes and recommends that the registration process permit them to register online before they arrive on campus.
- Mike Hostetler would like to see more international students at CSULB. However, California is one of the least accommodating states for international students and does not provide the kind of support that most other states provide for their international students.

III. New Business

A. International Project (IP) Awards (Elaine Haglund)

Elaine Haglund delivered the report for Laura Portnoi and proposed concentrating on a topic or a theme for the IP awards this year. For example, possible themes could be innovative approaches to short-term study abroad, i.e. service learning, internships, or travel study opportunities, including guest speakers, or students working on collaborative projects. A study at the end of the project should be submitted to the IEC.

There was a discussion of how critical the IP Awards are now that the SCAC awards have been eliminated. But the IP Award funding may be vulnerable as well. There was some discussion about how international programs are funded.

Vlatka Velcic stated that there would be a proposal form for the next meeting, and there should be a decision regarding the focus for this year's proposals. The proposals will be due the first week of March, and the awards will be distributed in mid-May.

IV. Old Business

Due to time constraints, old business was postponed to next month's meeting. The committee agreed not to invite a guest speaker to the next meeting so that more time could be devoted to the committee's working groups.

These minutes have been approved.

Recorder, Leslie Kennedy