**Academic Senate Committee on Internationalization (COI)
March 17, 2017**

**LRC 326**

**Draft Minutes**

1. Call to Order – by Shuang 1:05 P.M.
2. Attendance: Brian Kakas, Jim Marquardson, Maggie Hartman, Lila Isleib, Catherine Oliver, Shuang Xie, Hugo Eyzaguirre, Steve VandenArond, Z. Z. Lehmberg, Jacquie Medina, Judy Puncochar
3. Approval of Draft Minutes of February 3, 2016 – moved by Maggie, approved by consensus
4. Old business
* The integration of domestic students and international students
	+ Buddy System should carry through an entire year by partnering one domestic student with an international student
	+ All Nations Club is partnering with ASNMU, International Programs, and Mortar Board to invite domestic students to take part in the All Nations Club.
	+ [W.I.N. program](https://www.nmu.edu/internationalprograms/wilidcats-international-neighbors) is a new program to link faculty with international students. Faculty should meet with international students regularly.
	+ [Cru/Campus Crusade For Christ](https://www.nmu.edu/organizations/current-organizations?org=27) – created a bag of goodies for each international student and included an invitation for English language conversations
* ELI’s progress of programs in summer and fall (what help or suggestions we can offer?)
	+ Eight international students were interested in enrolling in the English Language, but the students were unable to start because the American Embassy did not issue their visas.
1. New Business
* Discussion of Steve VandenAvond’s tasks his office is doing
	+ The strategy to increase enrollment of international students at NMU is to enroll a few students and give them a fabulous experience. Word will spread. The model is to build from the ground up. St. Cloud started its diversity program from the ground up.
	+ Where do faculty go for funding international travel with recruitment? Steve have $70,000 for international recruiting trips and other aspects of international outreach. Steve does not have funds to pay for entire international faculty travel, but he could provide some money for recruiting associated with international travel (i.e., piggyback on international conference trips).
	+ Steve suggested faculty travel forms should have a box to check for requesting additional funding for international recruiting efforts
	+ What happened to the $1,000,000 start-up funds for innovative programs (e.g., international exchange programs with Zhejiang University of Science and Technology)?
	+ Could we find out how MTU recruits international students? NMU Admissions may have already started this conversation.
	+ MOU process is becoming specific.
	+ Faculty do a great job of making the connections, but NMU needs a recruiter to follow up and articulate the exchange agreements. NMU President Erickson gave the okay to hire a recruiter for international students. The recruiter would not go on trips, but would follow up on faculty outreach and international student contacts.
	+ Steve mentioned a restructured international scholarship program with increased monetary awards in some areas. His office has a system for signing with vetted recruiting agents who would represent our campus with validity, i.e., as we want to be represented.
	+ Visiting scholars and international student exchanges are great, but such exchanges should lead to other activities, namely, recruiting students to NMU.
	+ NMU has had lopsided exchanges. Exchanges need to be even (e.g., equal reciprocity of tuition). NMU can give free tuition to international students only to the extent that NMU students receive free tuition at international campuses.
* What help can COI offer for these tasks?
	+ Encourage attendance in NMU summer programs (e.g., international programming this summer focuses on art and design)
	+ Help international students feel comfortable and established at NMU.
	+ Recruit international students when traveling to international conferences
		- Faculty who agree to recruit would go through training and would show a PowerPoint
	+ Faculty could send an email to help follow up on leads.
	+ Academic departments need strong, enthusiastic faculty support (i.e., faculty need to promote student interest in exchanges)
	+ Susan Morgan works with study abroad. International exchange students provide benefits beyond the exchange of tuition (e.g., international students purchase meal plans).
	+ NMU conducted a study of Korean students regarding their study abroad experience. Perhaps COI could conduct a study of NMU students’ notions about study abroad.
	+ Help break down misconceptions about study abroad. Students may not realize study abroad is not as expensive as they might think. Financial aid applies to study abroad expenses. Language barriers may not be as difficult as imagined. Students may not understand the benefits of study abroad.
* What else COI can suggest to do
	+ Faculty could talk with students who have studied abroad (e.g., hold a study abroad student panel for students with an interest in study abroad)
	+ Publicize funding available for study abroad. More funding exists than most students realize.
	+ Talk about the benefits of study abroad.
	+ Share information with evidence about study abroad. Secondary education language majors with study abroad experience have a 100% pass rate on the [Michigan Test for Teacher Certification](http://www.mttc.nesinc.com/) exam.
	+ NMU has a scholarship program for international students. The scholarship program provides substantial amounts of money applied toward tuition each semester
1. Good of order
	1. Judy announced the Martha Griffiths Award application deadline is Mon 20-Mar-2017 at midnight. Write to Judy (jpuncoch@nmu.edu) for details.
	2. The Higher Learning Commission will make their site visit on March 20-23, 2017. Attend these events and share your NMU experiences.
2. Adjournment – 2:31 pm