

ACADEMIC SENATE 2009-10

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONALIZATION

Amy Orf, Chair

Mark Shevy, Secretary

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Members of the Academic Senate

From: Committee on Internationalization
Subject: Year-End Report for 2009-10
First Reading: April 6, 2010

The academic year 2009-2010 is the third year of service provided by the Committee on Internationalization (COI) to the Academic Senate. The Committee’s function is to advise and make recommendations to the Senate on a wide range of issues regarding internationalization at NMU and, to the extent possible, support faculty, student, staff and administrator efforts to internationalize the curriculum and the campus community. The ultimate goal of such efforts is to position NMU as an institution whose graduates demonstrate a knowledge base that encompasses a global perspective and a strong sense of global community.

This report covers the activities of the Committee on Internationalization since its year-end report for 2008-09 to the Senate, issued in April 2009 and posted on the Academic Senate website. The Committee met 6 times during Fall 2009 and has met 4 times in Winter 2010, with 2 more meetings projected.

During the academic year 2009-10 COI has

* met with internationalization consultants from Strategic Consulting, who were on campus in October 2009 in order to assess NMU’s international programs and give us guidelines for improvement and for increasing the recruitment of international students
* proposed that the Office of International Programs send out a monthly electronic newsletter to faculty with information on opportunities for grants, teaching, and research abroad, as well as international events on campus (the first issue of the newsletter came out in December 2009)
* met with Chair of the Academic Senate Andy Poe in order to clarify COI’s role with respect to other Senate subcommittees and various other University bodies
* given a presentation to the Academic Senate in Fall 2009 in order to describe what COI does and to offer our assistance on issues related to internationalization
* met with several members of the All Nations Club in order to learn more about the educational experience, needs, and promotion of international students on NMU’s campus (see the *North Wind*, March 11, 2010)
* discussed special preparation needed for Freshman International Experience students
* written to Tim Compton to inquire if MLL is interested in developing a procedure, similar to that of the Honors Program, for accessing student course evaluations for courses offered by faculty from outside departments that count toward the IP major and minor
* considered a proposal from Carol Strauss (MLL) to allow S/U grading for students who direct enroll in foreign institutions, and met with Registrar Kim Rotundo to discuss the feasibility of such a policy
* met with Peter Goodrich (English) to find out more about the Wildcat Prep Program, a one-semester program consisting of three courses in the English language and American culture, which will prepare students in China for study at NMU (beginning in Fall 2011)
* begun to establish criteria for Global Faculty Recognition and Global Student Recognition on campus, as part of the U.S. Department of Education Title VI Grant for International Studies and Languages
* begun to collaborate with the Office of International Programs to create a mentoring program for new international students at NMU

The Committee on Internationalization has met a number of the goals that it set for itself this academic year. We met with the internationalization consultants and held follow-up discussion, continued to promote the recruitment and retention of international students on NMU’s campus by addressing issues related to housing and campus life, discussed special preparation needed by Freshman International Experience students, considered the proposal for S/U grading for long-term study abroad, and worked to establish criteria for Global Faculty and Student Recognition.

COI still has a number of goals that it would like to pursue during the 2010-11 academic year. The committee plans to:

* continue to promote the recruitment and retention of international students on NMU’s campus by addressing issues related to housing and campus life

* continue to promote long-term study abroad, Faculty-Led Study Abroad, and Freshman International Experience programs for NMU students
* develop a report to present to the Academic Senate consisting of COI’s reaction to the internationalization consultants’ report and the actions we plan to take
* sponsor an open forum on internationalization for students, faculty, staff, and administrators to promote dialogue regarding the vision of internationalization on campus
* develop a vision statement for NMU internationalization that has as much acceptance as possible from the faculty, administration, and students
* disseminate a list of best practices in internationalizing the campus
* continue review of study abroad handbooks for Faculty-Led Study Abroad programs