ACADEMIC SENATE 2011-12

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONALIZATION

María G. Arenillas, Chair

Mike Burgmeier, Secretary

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Members of the Academic Senate

**From:** Committee on Internationalization

**Subject:** Year-End Report for 2011-2012

**Reading:** April 24, 2012

The academic year 2011-12 is the fifth 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 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 a global community.

The report covers COI’s activities since its year for 2010-11 to the Senate, which was issued in April 2011.

During the academic year 2011-2012 the Committee on Internationalization:

* Met with the Dean of International Programs, Dr. Siles in several meetings. Dr. Siles shared the International Programs annual report.
* The Dean of International Programs Dr. Marcelo Siles reported on his trip to China. The Committee discussed with Dr. Siles the interest of Chinese Universities in partnering with U.S. schools. Dr. Siles reported that he visited ten universities and all want to develop 2+2 programs in a variety of areas. He expected some of these new partnerships to begin in 2012 while others will start in 2013. The Committee made some recommendations about international students on campus.
* Wrote an award for NMU faculty, the “Recognition of International Focused Faculty at Northern Michigan University.” This award will recognize NMU faculty who show significant engagement in international activities. The award was submitted to the Provost.
* Wrote a draft for an award for NMU students, “Recognition of International Focused Student at Northern Michigan University.” Two committee members met with Dr. Tim Compton to discuss the award guidelines. The Committee will submit the award proposal next academic year, in order to be considered by the new provost.
* Wrote a memo to Provost Paul Lang requesting that COI be involved in the search for a new Director of International Programs.
* Participated in the search of a new International Program Director. Dr. Arenillas participated in the selection process and attended all meetings, while COI members had meetings with the three final candidates.
* Provided advice to Alexandra Fletcher who is working on a project with Dining Services to develop a “tolerance video” to help address some of the issues of discrimination in the workplace. Committee members offered a number of initial ideas and suggestions.
* Discussed the possibility of the termination of the International Visiting Scholars Series and decided to wait for the new provost to address our concerns. COI believes that the series is an important contribution to NMU internationalization process.

COI still has a number of goals that it would like to pursue during the 2012-2013 academic year. The committee plans to:

* Submit the proposal for the “Recognition of International Focused Student at Northern Michigan University” award.
* Work towards the continuation of the International Visiting Scholars Series.
* Continue to promote long-term study abroad program, Faculty-Led Study Abroad, and Freshman International Experience programs for NMU students.
* 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.