**Minutes: Academic Senate Standing Committee on Internationalization**

Friday, 12 February 2010

Present: Ball, Li, Orf, Peters, Schmidt, Shevy, Stunkard

Excused: Siles, Stunkard, Mihalopoulos, Mowafy, Oates

Meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m.

Agenda approved.

Last meeting’s minutes approved with some corrections.

**Reports**

**Chair Report**

Orf attended the Alberto Lomnitz international speaker presentation on Mexico’s deaf theatre company. She also attended the Alex Torres IPAS concert dedicated to Dr. Susan Goodrich.

Tim Compton sent her proposal drafts for the global student and faculty recognition designation.

Tim Compton will call a meeting with Modern Languages to discuss the matter of International Studies course assessment.

Rehema Clarken is scheduled to come to next meeting to talk about the international student mentoring program. We may want to invite Carol Steinhaus, too.

There will be a Study Abroad fair from 1-5 p.m. on Feb. 16 in the Pioneer Room.

Orf attended the FLSA leaders meeting; no course has the minimum of 12 enrolled students yet. How students pay for it is a barrier (i.e. they can’t pay in installments like they can with tuition).

**Secretary Report**

Shevy updated the minutes on the COI Web site and also attended the Alex Torres concert.

**Executive Director of International Programs Report**

No report.

**New Business**

***Guest: Peter Goodrich spoke about the Wildcat Prep program for Chinese students through Gateway in China.***

Wildcat Prep is a college prepatory program that students can take instead of the TOEFL exam. Chinese students will be automatically admitted to NMU if they complete the program and fulfill other requirements for NMU admission. The goal is that these students will be successful at NMU. Success is primarily defined as staying enrolled and graduating from NMU.

Gateway is a private organization in China, near Hong Kong. It has been in existence for about 10 years, and was founded by a Purdue graduate who wanted to teach English in China.

Dr. Z.Z. Lehmberg initiated this agreement; President Wong visited Gateway a few years ago, Dr. Lehmberg and Marcelo visited Gateway in December 2008, and representatives from Gateway have visited us. Peter Goodrich, Dr. Lehmberg, and others are now working on this. Siles is working on an MOU to go along with the program.

NMU faculty will go to China to offer the courses. The curriculum will consist of three courses, to 1) improve writing & reading, 2) learn American culture, and 3) learn Academic discourse. The program will provide lots of work in language to bring language skills up to TOEFL level but will also teach culture, especially that of the U.P. It will help students adapt to NMU life so they will do well here. The students will mostly be traditional college age. Course objectives have been established. Gateway will provide housing and a stipend for the visiting NMU instructor. NMU will start by sending a full-time professor for a year, one who is equipped to teach English to speakers of other languages. We want to make a good first impression, promoting a favorable attitude toward NMU. The first faculty member will go in the fall of 2010; it will likely be one of the program developers.

The dean and provost have agreed to make up the difference between Gateway’s pay and what the professor normally makes at NMU, but only for the first year. NMU will not continue to fund the difference, thus future instructors from NMU will likely be graduate students.

There will be 20 students in the first cohort in the fall 2010 semester. Another 20 students will start in the second semester after the Chinese New Year in 2011. The first cohort of Chinese students will arrive at NMU in the Fall of 2011.

Gateway has instructors from all over the world. Only English is permitted to be spoken on the Gateway campus. The courses are only prep – they don’t count as college credit.

Discussion:

COI members made favorable comments about the program, yet also expressed concern that students understand the implications of not taking the TOEFL.

Concerns were expressed about housing the Chinese students on campus, especially during breaks. A First Year Experience block for these students might help them once they get here.

The English Department is also proposing a separate TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages) certificate program to accompany graduate degrees. The certificate is 20 hours. Students will have the opportunity to gain experience teaching English at Gateway. The program will also create qualified people on campus and in the community to help with the presence of more international students. The program is still awaiting approval.

***Global Recognition proposals***

COI read through the proposals, raised questions, and suggested ideas for refinement. General comments supported the idea of making Global designation available to as many faculty who meet the criteria. Favorable attitudes were also expressed toward a second-level recognition for those who go above and beyond in outstanding performance.

Deciding the requirements for student global recognition is more difficult.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Shevy, COI secretary**.**