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

Friday,15 October 2009

Present: Ball, Li, Mowafy, Orf, Peters, Schmidt, Shevy, Siles

Excused: Mihalopoulos, Stunkard,

Absent: Oates  
Guests: None

Meeting called to order at 12:05 p.m.

Agenda for the current meeting approved.

**Reports**

**Chair Report**

No report other than finding out which COI members will attend the dinner with the internationalization consultants.

**Secretary Report**

No report.

**Executive Director of International Programs Report**

Siles visited with Cindy Paavola in Communications & Marketing concerning an International Programs electronic news letter. She agreed to having one once per month, plus updates if important intermediate events occur.

International Programs has selected a new employee who will be in charge of the newsletter and Facebook, among other responsibilities.

This week, Siles hosted two GLV visitors from China to explore partnerships with various departments and organizations on campus. NMU had already signed an MOU with GLV prior to Siles’ employment here.

Internationalization consultants will arrive in town at 12 p.m. Monday and leave 2 p.m. Wednesday. COI members are cordially invited to join them at The Vierling at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

**New Business**

**A. Option of Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade for study abroad**

Orf handed out a memo from Carol Strauss concerning the following issue: NMU students are sometimes afraid of directly enrolling at universities abroad because the grading standards might be tougher than those at NMU. How can we address this?

Could each department have a course for this purpose? Most have a special topics 496 pass/fail course that could be used. Perhaps before enrolling, students can choose whether they want to be graded (e.g., a special topics 495 course) or pass/fail. The grading must be coordinated with the university abroad that assigns the grades.

Perhaps there should be a cap on the number of pass/fail credits that can be transferred back to NMU. There may already be an NMU policy on this. If not, a suggestion was made that 16 pass/fail credits seemed reasonable – a full semester of 4 courses x 4 credits each. If students stay a second semester, it would have to be graded, but they have a better chance at success after being there for a semester already.

This needs to go through CUP. COI agreed to offer a letter of support to Carol Strauss as she forwards this through the proper channels.

**B. COI goals for 2009-2010**

Proposed goals:

1. Establish criteria for International Scholar designation for faculty, staff, and students (Title VI grant).
2. Help establish a pass/fail option for long-term study abroad.
3. Meet with the internationalization consultants, conduct follow-up communication, and have our own discussions within our group to develop a report to present to the Academic Senate. The report would consist of COI’s reaction to the consultants’ report and the actions we plan to take, such as holding an open forum on campus (see goal below).
4. Sponsor an open forum on campus to develop a vision of internationalization for NMU (use the consultants’ report and follow-up communication with them as the starting basis for this).
5. Develop a vision statement for NMU internationalization that has as much acceptance as possible from the faculty, administration, and students. This would be based on consultants, open forum, COI discussions, and other information as needed. It would be a one-sentence statement of what we want NMU to be as an internationalized campus.
6. Develop a list of best practices for internationalization, informed by the consultants’ report and open forum. This would be in line with the vision statement.
7. Continue review of study abroad handbooks for faculty and students, and perhaps parents.

**C. International Scholar designation for faculty and students (Title VI grant)**

COI is not sure whether staff is eligible for the designation. If so, the name of the designation might need to change to avoid arguments caused by designating staff as “scholars.” Or some other compromise might be needed.

A subcommittee should be formed (Siles, Orf, Peters, Mowafy, Compton) to establish bullet-point criteria for earning the designation.

**Old/Ongoing Business**

**A. Discussion of Needs of International Students on Campus**

International Programs is often the collection point for needs and complaints from international students. This office could conduct a survey of international students next semester to see what the most prominent needs are.

Other universities pair international students with a student who knows her/his way around the campus, community, and country to provide information from a student’s viewpoint. COI should invite someone from the All Nations Club to discuss this.

**Good of the Order**

Siles asks that we all take full advantage of the consultants’ visit.

Schmidt was accepted as one of three students from Michigan to present at an Intercultural Diplomacy conference in Berlin. It is an open forum and may be televised across Europe.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Mark Shevy, COI Secretary