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

Friday, 30 October 2009

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

Excused: Stunkard

Absent: None  
Guest: Andy Poe

Meeting called to order at 12:06 p.m.

Agenda for the current meeting approved.

Minutes from October 15 meeting approved with a minor correction.

**Reports**

**Chair Report**

Tabled.

**Secretary Report**

No report.

**Executive Director of International Programs Report**

Tabled.

**New Business**

**A. Guest – Dr. Andy Poe (Chair of the Academic Senate)**

Poe gave a brief history of how COI came to be. As the newest senate committee, COI needs to define who it is. Its main mission is to advise on matters of internationalization. We should feel free to interpret internationalization broadly. The language requirement for the honors program is related to internationalization; COI should be free to comment on this if they desire. COI should actively discourage interpretations of its own mission that are too “literalistic” or narrow. COI should feel free to interact with programs such as modern languages, international studies, Native American studies, other Senate committees, or any other program regarding the dispersion of resources or any other actions that fall under the broad interpretation of internationalization.

COI does not have any “teeth,” nor does any Senate committee. It is only an advisory role. COI can make requests and give advisement, but it cannot force other people or groups to do things.

COI should be well informed on all issues regarding internationalization, so when there are questions on these matters, people can come to COI for answers.

The relationship between COI and International Programs is not well fleshed out. International Programs is under no obligation to answer to the Senate or any Senate committee. COI has the right to request information, make recommendations to International Programs, and make recommendations to the Academic Senate. The Senate would not vote on recommendations or necessarily do anything about it, but it is a way to make information part of the public record.

COI is probably not informed about issues in which it should be involved because it is such a new committee, and people do not think about bringing it to COI.

COI should review its mission statement on a regular basis to see whether it should be revised.

When making recommendations or requests, COI should do so politely and professionally through formal written correspondence from the committee as a whole.

If COI would like to become a more routine route for internationalization information, COI should make a presentation to the Academic Senate to describe what COI does and what information they would like sent their way. We don’t know at the moment whether there is a way to make it mandatory to route information to COI. Present it as a matter of how COI can help other groups, not a request to be included for COI’s own sake. The earlier COI does this, the better. Doing so may give COI more weight when it wants to comment on issues coming up later.

Mark had to leave at 11: 55, and the following is an attempt from Mohey to fill his shoes.

A “sub-committee” to compose a presentation to the senate was voted unanimously (Ball/Mowafy). The members are Bill M, Amy O, and Laura S. Amy will give the presentation this semester.

The following student guests from the All nations Club were given time to share their feedback and experiences as international students at NMU:

1. Michael Ikunyua

2. Dane Durham

3. George Nintain

In addition, Frankie St. Clair, from the ANC also shared her aspirations to be an international student.

Several issues were discussed, some needs were expressed, and many suggestions were made to improve the educational and life experience for foreign students on NMU campus and the Marquette community.

Based on the guest’s presentation and their responses to COI’s suggestions, COI will examine the possibility of helping international students with the following issue:

1. Harmonizing the student’s travel schedule with NMU’s schedule for operating the dorms.
2. Searching for available funding for the students since they do not qualify for federal financial aid and are prohibited from securing employment off campus.
3. The Office of International Programs will assist the students in connecting with campus venues which may enrich their campus life (e.g., international food fest, cultural events, featuring the students and the program in campus and community media, etc)

The meeting was adjourned at 12: 55.

Respectfully submitted by Mohey Mowafy and Mark Shevy**.**