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

Friday, 18 September 2009

Present: Ball, Li, Mihalopoulos, Mowafy, Orf, Peters, Shevy, Siles, Stunkard,

Excused: N/A  
Absent: None.   
Guests: None.

Committee members introduced themselves. Welcome to Hongyan Li, who is new on the committee. Welcome back to Mohey Mowafy, who returned from Greece.

Agenda for the current meeting approved.

Minutes from 24 April 2009 approved.

**Chair Report**

Orf handed out the mission statement for COI and operating procedures.

Heikkila will not be on the committee, a replacement is being approved through Academic Senate. Steve Oates will likely be the replacement. We are still awaiting a student representative.

NMU received a $157,000 Title VI grant. It will help create new courses, bring in speakers and films, and support faculty professional development for internationalization. COI previously agreed to help establish criteria for these programs, but not run them.

Honors board update: Orf handed out a memo she sent to Laura Reissner, Chair of CUP, last May. CUP is aware that COI is against removing the language requirement from the honors program.

**Executive Director of International Programs**

Siles is starting a new round of office organization to replace John Mallo and fill another vacancy.

International Programs won three major grants over the summer. 1) The Title VI grant lasts two years, and it can be renewed based on performance. It opens the door for other grants. 2) A Central America Youth Leadership Program grant will bring a group of 25 students to campus to interact with high school students, live with families, and experience total immersion. We are one of five universities to win this. They will arrive sometime in January or February. We need to find a way to provide proper clothes for them. They will be here seven days. (Georgetown will help with this.) 3) Michael Broadway helped provide a Canadian Initiative grant that could open doors for other Canadian Grants.

Recruitment – The first task was to write a business plan, which forecasted a 10% increase in international student enrollment. We received a 12% increase, which is 73 students now. Problems with visas and finances prevented some interested students from coming. Offers from other universities also prevented some from coming to NMU.

Study Abroad – There are two types of study abroad: 1) Faculty-led study abroad – 92 students this year, 90 last year, which is about the same. Long-term study abroad – lower due to economy, financial problems – many loans students use for this have closed. 14.4 % decrease from last year (15% national).

Three international freshman experience programs are planned: 1) Canada (Quebec in August), 2) France (during spring break), and 3) London. COI discussed potential problems of lower drinking ages in other countries.

The country with the highest incidence of swine flu is the United States, so people exiting the United States are being screened more carefully before entering other countries.

Next week is the Study Abroad Fair. Twelve faculty-led study abroad programs have been approved for the upcoming year.

The International Programs office received external funding to bring in internationalization consultants from 19 Oct – 21 Oct. The company is called “Strategic Consultants.” They finished a similar project with Michigan State University. The purpose of the visit is twofold: 1) Make an assessment of our international programs and give us guidance of where to go. 2) Give us guidelines for increasing recruitment of international students.

∙ COI members are cordially invited to attend a dinner with the consultants on 20 Oct 2009 starting at 6 or 6:30 at the Vierling. It will be a straightforward conversation in hopes of benefiting NMU.

∙ The consultants also want to meet with community members, foundation members, and anyone else involved in internationalization.

Through a Wildcat fund, International Programs started an Asian Initiative, making contacts in China. As a result, three delegates from Chinese universities are coming to NMU.

∙ 28-30 September: Aba University, the epicenter of an earthquake, lost a lot of people and facilities. They are rebuilding and want to partner with us in art, deciding how to work together, and developing grad student opportunities.

∙ 10-14 October: An English language institute in China that had previously signed an agreement with President Wong to work with NMU. They want to continue working with us to recruit more Chinese students.

16-18 October: Hetao College, in Inner Mongolia, wants to work with our nursing program. They are a top nursing university in China.

There may be some further agreements with high schools.

**New Business**

Orf handed out a copy of the year-end report from April 2009.

Discussed best practices…

Siles recommended looking forward to the consultation report tailored to NMU before making final best practices documents.

Discussed COI goals for 2009-2001…

Further discussion about internationalizing NMU…

In what areas will we work toward internationalization? Latin America, Asia, Middle East, and Europe – this is the administrative agenda. However, in curriculum, there is a different balance.

Mihalopoulos expressed concern that the processes for getting access to internationalization funds is too opaque for many people on campus, particularly for curriculum internationalization outside of modern languages. Perhaps there should be a body of university sanctioned procedures to provide structure for evaluating programs and enhancing curriculum. Are we providing systematic, rigorous education in international economics, politics, sustainability, human rights, global health, and other elements of international studies? You can’t truly internationalize the campus without doing it in the curriculum, where it can be repeated throughout students’ four years. Two issues: 1. We need to improve the international studies program. 2. We need more vision, guidance, and faculty input. FRC is finding that many faculty are doing international efforts yet have no way of being integrated into the international studies program. The goal is to create a flagship international program, up there with education and nursing. We need a curriculum that is not just a menu of ad-hoc approved courses. What makes a good international studies program is to have a curriculum that builds upon certain themes, has structure, and expert advising across the themes.

Siles says his office his happy to help faculty get internationalization grants, but his office does not have much to do with curriculum.

Previous groups such as ITF, SAHIC, and ISAAC have written reports and generated ideas on developing an international studies program. Mihalopoulos says we face the same problem they have – we lack teeth to make anything happen. So what’s our next step?

Meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Mark Shevy