

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2010

Members present: Dr. Ronan Bernas, Dr. David Boggs, Dr. Stephen Canfield, Dr. Marilyn Coles, Ms. Stacey Jaksa, Dr. Tesa Leonce, Dr. Dejan Magoc, Dr. Ralph Marshall, Dr. Linda Simpson, Dr. Richard Sylvia

Members absent: Ms. Jenn Yap, Mr. Shaukat Sheikh

Ex-Officio present: Dr. Robert Augustine, Ms. Pam Collins, Ms. Marilyn Holmes (for Ms. Sue Songer), Ms. Sara Schmidt

Invited Guests present: Mr. Farhan Aziz, Ms. Lisa Brown, Ms. Rachel Dihle, Ms. Marilyn Thomas, Mr. Michael Murray

I. Welcome and Introductions, Dr. Coles

II. Approval of the April 2, 2010, minutes, Dr. Coles

Dr. Coles requested the draft minutes be amended to include language explaining the rationale behind the selection of the March and November IEC meetings as those meetings at which the proposed affiliates would be invited to report, as well as an additional grammatical correction. Motion was made by Dr. Marshall to accept the minutes as amended; seconded by Dr. Leonce; accepted by acclamation.

III. Reports

A. International Students and Scholars, Ms. Holmes, Coordinator, OISS. Ms. Holmes reported on current enrollment: as of September 3, there were 81 new international students and 150 total students, from 30 different countries. This is a record increase in international arrivals at Eastern: in the fall of 2009, there were 44 new students, so in one year the OISS has almost doubled the number of arrivals. At new student orientation, President Perry and Dr. Nadler welcomed our international students. Orientation went well. Kelly Miller, Associate Director of Housing, remarked that housing arrangements went the smoothest this year that she has ever seen. We are planning on scheduling the same arrangements next semester. Sara Boro, intern with OISS, will be assisting Marilyn Holmes in expanding cultural programming, specifically community outreach, offering international students an opportunity to get involved in the community through community service. Rachel Dihle, intern with OISS, is working with Dean Augustine and Marilyn Holmes on an OISS newsletter which will be used for philanthropy and recruitment purposes. Recent and upcoming student events include a bowling party (August 27), a Champaign shopping trip (September 4), a University Apartments picnic (September 12), and a trip to the Chicago Museum of Science & Industry (October 8). A Redden Grant of \$1,500.00 which Marilyn Holmes was awarded will be used for the Chicago trip.

B. Study Abroad, Ms. Brown and Mr. Aziz, Coordinators, OSA. Mr. Aziz reported that the Study Abroad Fair will be held on September 8 in the University Ballroom. It will be the largest study abroad fair to-date. Ms. Brown reported that, in addition to the several new faculty-led programs summarized at the May IEC meeting, there are also two new winter break programs, one to Italy through Family & Consumer Sciences and an independent program in Ecuador. Ms. Williamson is also in the process of developing a new exchange in Morocco. The Office of Study Abroad was informed by the Business Office that the practice of paying Hub Travel for their services of paying our vendors and signing the certifications required by Senate Bill 51 would no longer be legally feasible.

The Office of Study Abroad is looking for a solution to this issue. Dr. Boggs stated that he was having problems getting the certifications completed for his program in Maastricht. Ms. Collins stated that 80-85% of trips actually fill and proceed to their destinations. Ms. Jaksa surveyed the Italian SA program participants and determined that attendance would have fallen if program length had increased by one week or had increased in price. Dr. Leonce agreed that this also applied to her Barbados SA program.

C. Graduate School, Dr. Augustine, Dean, Graduate School. Dr. Augustine updated the Council on Ms. Songer's recovery from her accident in June and hopes she will be able to return to work part-time in the fall semester and full-time in the spring semester. He reported that Ms. Dihle would be creating an international alumni newsletter which would showcase alumni, current students and international faculty. He stressed the importance of the Council and reviewed past accomplishments: reducing the undergraduate student tuition rate for qualified incoming students; reduction of the graduate student tuition rate; creation of a separate position for a Study Abroad Director and additional Coordinators; creation of the Global Ambassadors program to acknowledge outstanding international alumni. He also commended staff on recent accomplishments: the nomination of the OISS for an award by the International Student Network; a publication by Ms. Williamson in The Chronicle of Higher Education; the continued increase in SA and exchange programs; the new winter SA program concept; the new China 2+2 program; and the increase in visiting international scholars.

IV. Items to be Acted On - none

V. Items Pending

A. Discussion on Philanthropy for International Court, Dr. Augustine. Dr. Augustine reviewed the history of the International Courtyard proposal, now renamed the "Global Ambassadors Plaza" which would incorporate some recreation of the Schahrer Memorial Pergola. A preliminary project estimate is around \$500,000. He and Ms. Holmes have met with five members of the International Alumni Advisory Board Members to discuss fundraising. He introduced Mike Murray of the Office of Philanthropy who would be assisting with fundraising efforts for the Plaza. Mr. Murray asked IEC members to consider making donations to the Plaza fund and to help identify fundraising prospects for solicitations. He displayed the fall semester's Capital Campaign solicitation brochure and mentioned that a plaza-specific piece could be added to the brochure for targeted soliciting. He discussed his success in the Sciences fundraising program using retired faculty members to identify past students who may be good solicitation prospects. Upon inquiry, Mr. Murray replied that around \$10,000 had been raised to date for the Plaza. He stated that it would be crucial to find lead donors in the \$100,000 range.

Dr. Coles asked for a volunteer to temporarily replace Ms. Songer on the Projects Committee; Ms. Holmes volunteered. Dr. Augustine thanked Drs. Coles and Leonce for their continued leadership of the council and congratulations to the new and continuing members. He thanked Ms. Holmes, Ms. Thomas, and Mr. Ricci for their roles in the increased student numbers this semester.

Dr. Sylvia moved to adjourn; Dr. Simpson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Next IEC meeting: Friday, October 1, 2010, 8:30 a.m., **2116 Blair Hall Seminar Room** (note change)

Recorder: Marcus Ricci, OISS