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## International Programs minutes 04/03/2014

International Programs Committee

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## **International Programs Committee meeting minutes [approved May 2, 2014]**

**April 3, 2014, 9-10am, IH 202**

Present: Marynel Ryan Van Zee (Faculty, chair), Sarah Buchanan (Faculty), Ed Brands (Faculty), Pilar Eble (ex-officio, Assistant Director of International Student Programs), Sarah Ashkar (Study Abroad Advisor), Molly Donovan (Student) Michael Peters (Student)

Absent: Jimmy Schryver(Faculty), Chlene Anderson (P&A), Zehua/Jack Zhang(Student), Alexander Kachan (Student),Irene Maloney (USA)

I.

Minutes for the January and February 2014 meetings were approved and will be submitted for posting.

II.

We had a quick follow-up on international student issues, which we will probably revisit at the beginning of the next semester.

Pilar reported that Scholastic Committee is putting together a task force to work on the issue of language requirements for incoming international students.

Pilar reported that Oscar Baldelomar is doing a study on the international students about self-determining reasons for study at UMM and whether they are becoming 'emerging adults' by comparison with the American cohort; Chinese students decreased in indicators of self-determination [multiple items] – this could be attributable to a number of factors. Pilar and Oscar are discussing how to use these data: share with incoming students, let them know this is a potential experience? Pilar would like to dig in a bit more and know *why* the Chinese students are showing this decrease in those indicators. Oscar is also working on improving retention of Chinese students in the study; some dropped out after the first survey.

Pilar also followed up on the Confucius Institute: it's likely we'll have a person doing outreach and programming; any potential research interests that this person could collaborate with faculty on in terms of language, history, culture, etc.? Oscar needs a collaborator who can work with Chinese students. Marynel noted that the collaboration would be dependent on what expertise the Confucius Institute person offers.

One additional item: Admissions came to Pilar recently to discuss an applicant pool of international students that is available from UMTC after the UMTC considerations date [these international students form a diverse group of students from around the world and we may be able to get some of them to consider Morris].

Marynel asked how crucial the first semester is for international students; Pilar noted that it's a crucial semester for American students. She has been asking who is admired among the Chinese students. The answer is: students with high GPAs, multiple majors, and graduating in 3 years; also

students going to graduate schools...not necessarily students who are socially engaged and connecting with American students.

Sarah B. suggested we might hold social events for our top-performing American students to meet the Chinese students coming in, in order to connect them with academic performers who are also socially active. 'Natural' match?

III.

We then turned to the issues with study abroad outlined by Sarah in the document the committee has already received.

Sarah B first presented the rotation plans for programs, and a brief description of the concerns expressed by the LAC staff over our numbers/their level of work/etc. She believes they want us to have no more than 5 programs that they handle per year.

Brief discussion of history of relationship with LAC and issues related to fees, etc., was followed by a brief discussion of historical numbers for our study abroad programs and the crucial year of 2013 [only one program], as well as this year's outlook.

Pilar expressed a general perception that they see an obstacle and stop, where we do our best to find solutions when we run into a problem. Sarah A noted that is a UMM specialty.

Another issue that came up recently – demand for uniform dates; Sarah B thinks she's successfully squashed this.

Marynel asked if we should work on dealing with the problem as it exists, managing the relationship with the LAC, or push for moving management of our own programs here. Sarah B's sense is that we need a quota for 2016 because LAC is likely to demand one at the April 9 meeting. But we need to be making preparation for moving things back to Morris at the same time if we are serious about that.

We discussed how to narrow down the field of potential programs. Several questions were raised:

Can we differentiate between study abroad programs that are more essential to major completion and those which are not?

Can we reduce competition before the meeting with the LAC personnel for the approval process?

Sarah B's impression is that they want to be part of the process of approval so that they can see how and why we approve the programs we do; Sarah B sees it as not a bad idea for them to participate.

Are there ways we could spread decision-making around? We don't want in-fighting within disciplines but we don't necessarily think that divisions are the places to make preliminary decisions.

Molly asked if we should cap geographically? By GER? Do credit numbers matter?

We will revisit this issue after April 9, when Sarah B meets with LAC personnel.

Overall message: we dislike cap idea, in general, and would push for a higher number than 5 if we accept one.

IV.

We turned to a quick discussion of budget. We have \$900 left from the curricular development grant money. In addition, we have the \$104.25 that was already a remainder in December. It was agreed that Marynel will request a carry-over in order to supplement our curricular development grant money for next year.

We also have \$390.48 in the extracurricular international programming grant pool. We have one extracurricular international programming request for \$300 for the Sax celebration. Ben Narvaez may submit an application to support the visit of a scholar from Cuba. Two students also approached me about putting in an application for a film screening and discussion that they would submit through ASA. Marynel will like discuss priorities with the subcommittee.

Minutes submitted by Marynel Ryan Van Zee