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International Programs minutes 01/13/2014

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International Programs Committee [approved January 26, 2015]

November 13, 2014, 8:00am, Moccasin Flower Room

In Attendance: Sarah Ashkar, Viktor Berberi, Ed Brands, Sheri Breen, Leslie Gubash-Lindberg, Yuka Nagasaki, Monica Rin, Marynel Ryan Van Zee, Amber Whittemore, Tinu Bello

Guest: Clement Loo

Absent: Pilar Eble, Stephanie Ferrian (maternity leave)

The meeting was called to order at 8am.

1. Approval of Minutes

The first order of business was approval of the minutes from the October 9, 2014 meeting, which was unanimous.

2. Budget Update (Marynel)

3 study abroad scholarships were awarded in the fall round.

Extracurricular international programming monies have been awarded to a documentary screening (Pankaj Rishi Kumar visit), the USA fashion show, and Pounce Around the World; the latter two events are part of International Education Week.

We currently have two grant applications for the curricular development monies, 1 in each category and both are from Sarah Buchanan. Marynel has sent an additional call out to the UMM-Employees list and will provide all applications to the appropriate subcommittee after the deadline of 11/17/14

4. Update on UMM's relationship/contractual agreement with the Learning Abroad Center (Sheri)

The contract with the Learning Abroad Center has been finalized and signed; copies were distributed to the members of the committee for their information. The contract reflects the changes we discussed.

Sheri has created a process for the review of new proposals for study abroad programs and has distributed a call. Proposals are due January 7, 2015 for academic year 2015-16. Sheri will convene an ad hoc committee of students, staff and faculty involved with study abroad to review the applications between January 8 and 31. She would welcome volunteers from IPC, though this will not be an IPC subcommittee.

5. Clement Loo, our guest, began the discussion of the Cargill Sustainability Leadership Program

This grant was provided to help us create an overarching framework for sustainability work on our campus. UMM does a lot in terms of programming, curriculum, but there was concern that people were doing this in a disconnected, ad hoc manner and that we should find a way to "do sustainability" in a way that integrates efforts under an overarching framework and makes sustainability relevant across the campus/curriculum. It's not immediately obvious to everyone how sustainability is relevant to individual programs; we need to find a way to make its relevance clear and the grant is intended to facilitate that.

The question before us today is how sustainability can link through IPC/international programs and vice versa – what is IPC's connection with general efforts to foster sustainability on campus? Clement outlined places where partnership might be possible under the Sustainability Leadership Fellows program.

3 things fall under SLF:

Workshops (staff, faculty, students) – we could add something about international sustainability programming;

Curriculum development – funds are available; have already partnered with Dean's Office to sponsor EDP sustainability (could follow model with IPC as well);

Money for speakers and events – intl. programming and sustainability on campus (more than ½ of the faculty fellows are on the IPC – Breen, Brands, Berberi); could help sponsor speakers, etc., related to international/sustainability.

Given the scope of this project, we should be collaborating across campus to give money away. There is travel money for fellows of the grant to do site visits for sustainability hotspots – international sites relevant to sustainability.

Not all curricular development money is tied up through the EDP partnership; could tie with funding from IPC (even this year). A good fit might be a co-sponsored curricular development grant.

Sheri noted that this could encourage brainstorming and commitment from new people for program creation – we could do a call for proposals for funding and reach out to people who aren't involved in study abroad yet, to deepen and enrich the pool of programs we offer.

Clement asked about a 'consistent effort' component. How would we do that? What would we need to add to make sustainability a consistent effort/theme within the IPC and its priorities?

Ed noted that 'sustainability' is a broad concept and we need to talk about what it means for international programs. Sheri noted that as long as 'sustainability' is coded as 'green' issues, it may not seem as relevant to question of international programming. Sarah added that we need to have a conversation about what economic and social sustainability might mean, and how they are linked to international activities. Leslie noted that courses on international issues in sustainability would appeal to international students and domestic students; lots of international students are already interested. No international students applied as student sustainability fellows (despite that Clement teaches many international students), so other efforts at outreach might be welcome.

Student and faculty fellows serve for 2 years.

Ed noted that looking at history of the IPC contribution to sustainability (reviewing old grant applications, etc.) would be helpful; faculty fellows and IPC might, together, discuss the broad definition of sustainability and figure out what the IPC's angle is.

We also noted that we could do this through a grant application process – ask people to explain how their project relates to sustainability and IPC priorities, and use that as part of developing efforts toward defining sustainability.

We decided to see what happens with the curricular development money after the deadline of 11/17 and have a conversation with Clement about how we might create international sustainability curricular development grant options *this academic year*; this would really need to happen as early as possible in 2015 in order to support work during summer 2015. Marynel will keep tabs on the budget and consult with the committee about a formal decision to offer an additional curricular development grant.

The committee thanked Clement Loo for an informative conversation and he departed the meeting.

6. New compliance requirements for study abroad incident reporting and their consequences

Sarah Ashkar provided information about the new legal requirements for reporting of 'incidents abroad' and the Board of Regents response to it. The twin cities campus has chosen to get rid of their process for facilitating participation in non-affiliated programs for semester-long experiences. Those students who wish to participate in such programs will be required to take a leave of absence from the UM (no insurance, no student status, no use of UM-enrolled-based financial aid).

The question is whether we, as the Morris campus, in order to fully comply with the Minnesota law and avoid the liability issues, adopt a similar policy. We would probably sign our own affiliation agreements with certain programs (e.g., ISA) that we use consistently. That shifts the legal liability to the affiliated program; the program would be required by the affiliation agreement to report incidents to us.

The vast majority of our students are already going on UM-sponsored or –affiliated students. But we need an established policy to deal with the minority who do not.

Viktor asked what effort is involved in establishing affiliation. Sarah noted that we can use the LAC affiliation with the top 4 or 5 international program providers and we will piggy-back on processes that Duluth has initiated with General Counsel for our own ISA agreement. There are templates; there is some amount of editing work. But it has to be done in advance – we could not do ad-hoc affiliation agreements as students choose programs. We would decide strategically who the partners would be.

The other advantage of having a suite of programs we have chosen for affiliation is that we can assure ourselves, students, and others that these programs are safe and effective programs. We could provide a better study abroad experience for our students.

Committee members agreed to the establishment of a subcommittee to discuss the issues and possible consequences of any UMM policy changes. Sarah, Viktor and Amber volunteered to serve and Sarah will call the subcommittee together for the discussion. They will report back to IPC with recommendations for a policy, which it would be optimal to have in place by the time students are deciding on Fall Semester programs for 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 am.

Minutes submitted by Marynel Ryan Van Zee