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International Programs minutes 03/08/2016

International Programs Committee

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IPC minutes, March 8, 2016, Prairie Lounge

Present at 8:10 AM: Viktor Berberi (chair), Joe Alia (author of minutes), Sarah Buchanan, Jimmy Schryver, Shingo Yamane, Sarah Askar, Stephanie Ferrian, Leslie Gubash-Lindberg and Ray Lagasse

Guests present from 8:25 AM to the end: Aaron Wenzel and Bart Finzel

Absent: Sarah Askar

I. Discussion of study abroad/LAC review

Sarah: LAC is negotiating to shift their role for next year. LAC would like to be more in control of onsite logistics and increase their fee from \$400 to \$600 per student. The proposed new position would allow us independence from the LAC. For the same fee UMM could fund at least part of a position here.

Viktor: What about emergency funds (Morris contingency funds)? *Sarah:* The funds are ours and would probably transfer back if all programs were run independently through UMM.

Viktor: We need to make our programs competitive in cost. We don't want to end up paying the same or more to support programs on our own as we would pay the LAC.

Viktor: From the survey, it seems that faculty are currently not clear of the structure and support available here at UMM.

Jimmy: We don't know that the LAC is advertising our programs

Stephanie: LAC sometimes directs students to programs run from the TC. With the exception of one program this year, our programs have all UMM students.

Sarah: The lateness of budgets this year is a big problem. Difference in timing and application deadlines between UMNTC and UMM is problem.

II. Visit by Bart and Aaron 8:23 AM

Bart: LAC is visiting this month. From previous skype including Aaron Wenzel, the LAC wants to know what kind of long-term relationship UMM wants. Will UMM eventually run programs independently? LAC anticipates continuing to run UMM programs next year. A mixture of some programs run independently at Morris and some through the LAC depending on logistical requirements. LAC does not want Morris profs working directly with program providers.

Aaaron: Perhaps the LAC wants to fit all programs into one model. LAC does logistics by working with providers. UMM faculty teach.

Bart: The LAC would mediate between faculty and providers.

Viktor: This model does not allow some cost saving options.

Bart: We may propose that some programs are run through UMM and some through the LAC. Faculty who choose to run programs through the LAC would surrender some autonomy.

Bart: The IPC can advise on whether UMM can run programs independently or whether we will have some programs run independently and some run through the LAC

Sarha: We need to leave flexibility for new programs. New faculty may especially want to develop new programs.

Bart: Having some programs that run frequently saves on a lot of the work. A mix of new and continuing programs would be ideal.

Sarah: A lot of the LACs work is setting up new providers in the financial system.

Aaron: LAC has \$25-30K in a Morris contingency fund. What happens to that if all programs are run through UMM?

Sarah: The Morris Contingency Fund should return here since it is paid for by UMM student fees. Bart agrees.

Bart: IPC should advise on a long-term plan. Would we have staff to run programs more independently?

Stephanie: We would likely need more staff. A dual option, some programs run through the LAC and some run independently here may help if we do not have another staff position. The LAC option may be a good option for faculty running a program for the first time. The dual option may be a good one.

Viktor: Would the LAC want to help new faculty set up their program for the first time and then eventually have them run independently through UMM?

Sarah: The dual program idea seems like a good idea in the interim. If we eventually bring it back to UMM we will need a new staff position.

Jimmy: What is the LAC's frustration with UMM?

Aaron: The LAC struggles to figure out who to talk to at Morris each year.

Jimmy: Some of the frustration may be due to a disconnect between the LAC and UMN faculty, Do UMNTC students get accepted into Morris programs? From the UMM point of view, are Morris programs are being promoted and advocated for at UMNTC?

Bart: Can we work with other UMN campuses that do not work through the LAC, Duluth and Crookston?

Viktor: Bart, do you have a clear sense of the options for this contract? Is there really a dual option? Or option to completely leave the LAC?

Bart: We need a gradual process otherwise will need to cut back programs short term.

Bart: The LAC seems more willing than in the past to completely let UMM go.

Sarah and Viktor: Dual option seems like the best one.

Stephanie: We will continue with the GPS who already has contracts with many providers we would use.

Ray: Leigh Neys, International Programs and Services Director at UND has been supportive and innovative in support of faculty who lead study abroad there. From his work at UND Ray is familiar with a variety of models that are possible. Leigh Neyses may be a good resource as we develop new ideas.

Sarah and Joe: The loss of control of UMM faculty over logistics due to the LACs working with providers could have a very strong effect to the point of even changing the programs curriculum or curriculum that would be possible. The site and logistics of study abroad programs by definition is not independent of the educational experience created for students.