

International Education and Services Committee meeting
Oct. 17, 2006

In attendance: Denvy Saxowsky, Adalberto Reyes, Hamid Bahari-Kashani, Niki Young, David Doellinger, Daryl Thomas, Ann Bliss, Doug Smith, Cheryl Strand, Michele Price

Self introductions went all around since many were new or visiting the meeting.

Michele, Study Abroad Program, introduced new programs from AHA, Kefalonia, Greece (sustainable community development program) and CCSA, added programs in Hong Kong and Canada, both are English speaking. Discussion followed: the fact that by approving these programs there is no added cost for WOU. Each course will have to be reviewed by the academic departments for appropriate course equivalencies. This can be done by the departments after it is approved by the committee. Approved unanimously with one abstention.

Laura Stahlman's proposal for the Acta Lingua Academy program in Vienna was reviewed. There is no German summer program from other providers. Michele explained that her office would support the proposal and assist Dr. Stahlman, but that Prof. Stahlman would have to do much of the legwork and paperwork since Michele's office only has a .50 staff member, and her office is not able to support faculty at the level she would like. The committee agreed that if Prof. Stahlman wished to pursue this project we would support her proposal. (Daryl contacted her by phone later that month)

Report on Dr. Sol's visit, from Korea, earlier this month. WOU would like to continue this relationship for student and faculty exchange, especially the College of Education programs. Although language is a concern, English is used often in this school.

Michele requested another faculty member interview Jeffrey Bock, a student applying for a Fulbright. He has studied 1 year in Tübingen and wants to teach English in Germany. Dave Doellinger, Ann Bliss and Denvy Saxowsky all offered to do this.

The International Education Week Fair at WOU is shaping up with many activities in November. Erin in the International Ed and Scholars office is organizing musical activities, a ping pong tournament and International Potluck. Daryl has some students doing some posters for the fair. There still needs to be more awareness on campus about this opportunity, more visibility and support.

Discussion about limited visibility and support for study abroad and international exchanges. Both the provost and president show interest and voice support for promoting this, but there is little financial support. The Study Abroad Office has been hard hit due to financial cuts, but it is not just this office as academic staff support is down throughout campus.

Adalberto Reyes, the new program advisor for the International Students & Scholars Affairs office, reported on some of the activities planned for the international students:

Two 48 passenger buses to Silver Falls on Saturday, Oct. 10th. Halloween (28th) theme park;.Nov.International week and also a trip to Tillamook Air Museum & Tillamook Cheese Factory; Dec.,OMSI; Jan.,Mt. Hood ski trip; Feb.,Working w/student government, leadership retreat – would like international students to go. There is some limitation of cost and/or number of students who can sign up. Other WOU students can attend, as much as possible these events are free for international students. The committee brainstormed some other ideas for international student trips – Oregon Gardens, Intel, Oregon coast Aquarium, Hatfield Aquarium. Might consider inviting students in dorms to Halloween party so it isn't just the international students. Encourage mingling between American & international students.

The committee recognized it may be a good idea to get students out of Monmouth to see other sights and sites. Recommend American students to participate, but don't want to take "seat" of international students. Use of cars was discussed, this included liability, safety and just having room enough.

Beto stays in touch with other student activities programs, uses them for mingling so international students know to take advantage of the opportunities. Last Saturday, 5 Chinese students went to Independence to volunteer w/ Habitat for Humanity. If more international student events are planned there may be a concern that bad feelings will be generated among American students who cannot afford to go. Beto reported on the first trip only 65 out of 120 signed up. If pattern continues, the International Students office will find out why (because full?, not interested?)

Question: how are the international students functioning with the language? How many are in ESL vs regular classes—do we have enrollment numbers.

There are 2 ESL classes in building and some students in level 5 (ESL & regular classes.) Beto will send the enrollment information to the committee.

Denvy reported in the IT program there were 3 early, 5 in the Fall and 5 in the spring, who moved from ESL to regular coursework. Denvy then mentioned that from posters students have done, they indicate they would like more interaction with American students.

How can we as a committee facilitate better communication? How can we network and use what we have to coordinate the students, faculty and even the community.

Beto explained this past summer a local church helped transport students from the airport in Portland. This was very helpful but we would be more comfortable for faculty/staff rather than whole community. -Suggested Emily Plec as a point person for conversation partners. – Have Emily figure out structure, Beto then could inform students of any program. An example could be for Thanksgiving; pairing up with faculty families. Areas where international students could informally interact with American students include: sports events, PE classes, volunteer work on campus (theatre?) join sports team such as women's soccer.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:11PM