

USA Council on International Education Meeting
June 30, 2008 – 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
HUMB Room 216C

Attending: Isabel Z. Brown, Ana Burgamy, Peggy Delmas, Jim Ellis, Woody Hannum, Sara Majors, Steve Morris, Maggi O'Brien, Samuel Russ, Julio Turrens, Vaughn Millner

Absent: David Feinstein, Russ Lea, Mohan Menon, John Sachs

Reviewed and approved (as amended): at September 2, 2008 meeting

Lillie Samuels, Secretary, Office of International Education and USACIE

The Committee began its meeting location rotation, next meeting in College of Education. As previously discussed and approved, future meetings will be rotated to each college.

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

College Updates: Sara Majors presented information on a program that Nursing is considering in affiliation with Kukulcan in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and asked about how USA approves programs. Discussion revolved around how much of a language you lose if you do not use it and the need for students to be provided with access to programs that work with their schedules and professional/academic programs. Additionally any time you are outside of your area of comfort, you learn more according to Sara Majors. It was also reported that a Medical-Spanish Club was developed by one student. Discussion also revolved around the need for programming flexibility – ad hoc opportunities for students going to Ghana – where there is some predictability of safety. It was pointed out that across the curriculum and programs there should be some cross-cultural sensitivity and “internationalization”.

Dr. Ellis mentioned that he is meeting with the university counsel to get some background on insurance issues for the students/faculty traveling abroad. One issue of concern included security evacuations. He would move forward on recommendations to the Senior Vice President to acquire such a policy to cover our students, faculty and staff. He mentioned that we should be able to prepare the students for most study or related international options. The proposal went to both VP's – Academic Affairs and Medicine. It was understood that there is a need to maintain flexibility in the colleges however there is also a need to put some structure into the colleges based on their identified “international” goals and objectives.

Dr. Ellis talked a little about the two freshman orientations that had taken place. He stressed that the OIE office was fast running out of materials due to the programming. He said that during the orientation sessions, IE staff interacted with students from virtually every major. He drew attention to Ana Burgamy's draft handouts being developed to advise students per college and major. Dr. Ellis also made reference to the University of Minnesota and said that he would like to receive some feedback on these documents. He stressed that we need to be able to tell all students about the opportunities we would consider.

How do we move the students and get them more interested is the significant question we must address! We are slowly building up resource materials to make a guide for study abroad for students and faculty. A suggestion was also noted to create a photo contest this fall.

Dr. Woody Hannum liked the idea of going to high schools to promote international education. Dr. Ellis mentioned that if we get the students early, maybe they can do some of their basic courses abroad. We

need to emphasize the quality aspects of the programs abroad and note that they are accredited. It was also noted that for USA students they can work on senior projects and research activities abroad not just in the US.

How do we prepare these students before they go where there is a host country language and students are not language majors/minors? The council discussed having a pre-departure orientation activity related to a particular language. Dr. Brown said that if we require a course like this, we may discourage students if they have to learn a language. Rather, would like students to say they need to learn the language once they get to the program. Discussion also reviewed how USA should develop these programs. Faculty members need to make site visits, but where does the money come from? The question was also raised on the availability of matching funds? It was suggested that we create a pool of money for faculty to use. USARC was mentioned as an option. No faculty can get the grant a second time. Send any development list that might have possibilities. It was noted that a contact person for this would be Keith Harrison (Faculty Development Grant).

Dr. Ellis mentioned that he had a meeting with John Smith about putting a kiosk in the Student Center. Smith thought it was a good idea. Dawn McKinney and Karen Peterson (USA service learning project) also sent proposal to the president to sponsor a service learning center in the USA Student Center. Fall is a good time to pick up students. We could have a table manned by students all day. The Student Center Kiosk will need sponsors. Having an information web/tv function would be useful as well. The area could also serve as a meeting point for faculty as well.

Discussion also revolved around the OIE Fall calendar of activities – handout.

Dr. Ellis reported that USA is now a member of the Mobile International Festival. Dr. Ellis noted an interest in developing materials for high school students, i.e. Constitution of the World, study abroad . The Committee liked the idea. Ideas discussed included: creating a calendar that the International Committee could keep for a whole year, like a year-at-a-glance calendar; put flags on it, challenge is to see what country it is.

Deadlines for study abroad programs were also noted: for Fall - October and for Spring - April. Dr. Ellis also announced that OIE will be holding its first Study Abroad Fair on September 22.

Mission and goals continued conversations – see where the Committee can go with this. Don't want to push too hard; will continue this discussion. Question was raised as to what extent are USACIE is involved when the dean's as they layout their plan of action! It was noted however that all will have to respond to the new goals. This Council needs to address a set of directions for the following academic year.

Faculty survey has not been officially announced yet. Andy Lightbourne indicated this would be something for IT to develop rather than to use an external product such as Survey Monkey. Discussion on the questions took place. It was also pointed out that this would be good to do through new employee orientation – only 10 questions – (handout). Dr. Ellis mentioned that he has a meeting with Human Resources to see exactly how this should be worded. He will put something together and send out after Human Resource meeting.

Closing discussions revolved around the USA relationship with the Mobile Chamber.

It was decided that the next meeting will be held in early September, first or second week.

With no further issues at the present time, the meeting adjourned.