

Minutes from the Council for International Education  
1:00 PM, Monday, April 2, 2018  
Horrabin Hall 60 & the Quad Cities Campus via videoconference

In attendance: Davison Bideshi (chair), Fuyuan Liang, Michael Murray, Rafael Obregon, Tolulope Olupona (student representative), Mandeep Singh (via videoconference), John Stierman, and Carol Webb (via videoconference).

Guests: Dr. Erskine Smith, Dean of COEHS, and Dr. Katrina Daytner, Associate Dean of COEHS

**I. Approval of Minutes from March 2018**

a. Motion made (Obregon) & seconded (Stierman). Minutes approved as written.

**II. Addition to agenda: Dean Erskine Smith and Assoc. Dean Katrina Daytner, COEHS**

a. Dr. Bideshi asked the Council's permission to move the announcements to later in the meeting to provide time for Drs. Smith and Daytner to discuss their views on campus internationalization. Dr. Smith stated that campus internationalization is very important to ensure that our students have exposure to other cultures through experience of their cultural traditions, food and other cultural artifacts and practices.

b. Dr. Bideshi said that in a previous meeting, the Council, along with several college deans, had discussed the importance of Study Abroad programs and the potential removal of the Foreign Language/Global Issues course requirement. Dr. Bideshi said that for the moment, the FL/GI requirement looks intact. He also said that the Council was not interested in so much a unit-based course requirement, but rather in graduating students who were globally competent, and that ideally all courses could include content to ensure global competence. Dr. Smith responded that such a requirement would necessitate a large buy-in from numerous individuals, and that this would bring about a significant push back from faculty members. Dr. Bideshi responded that, for departments that felt unable to meet such a far-reaching requirement, the existing single FL/GI course requirement would ensure that students in those departments would take at least one global issues course.

c. Dr. Daytner asked if the Council had thought about whether there would be any sort of professional development to help faculty members develop a GI component for their courses. Dr. Obregon said the Council had not considered such a thing yet, but that it seemed like an excellent idea. Mr. Stierman noted that the Council does not have the power to require that all courses contain a GI component, but that if the university's new provost were behind such an initiative, that would give the Council some added authority.

d. Dr. Smith said that many faculty already think they have a GI component in their classes, and many would say they already meet the requirement. Dr. Daytner asked if the GI requirement was supposed to go in to the General Education curriculum as well. Ms. Olupona asked how such a requirement would function in specific departments, asking if it would be compulsory for

each department to require a GI component in every class. After brief general discussion of these questions, Drs. Smith and Daytner left the meeting.

### **III. Announcements**

a. Nominations for CIE Officers for the academic year 2018-19: Dr. Bideshi stated that the Council will need a new Chair and a new recording secretary for next year. Dr. Singh asked what the composition of the Council would be like next year, adding that perhaps the Council should table discussion of officer nominations until it meets in Fall 2018. By acclamation, the nomination of CIE officers for academic year 2018-19 was tabled until the first meeting in September 2018.

### **IV. Feedback for the college deans**

a. Dr. Singh voiced his feeling of depression concerning the state of transition the university is currently in. He argued that global competence is a fundamental requirement today, and that the Council must define what it wants Western's students to be competent in, in their major areas as well as in the general education curriculum. Dr. Singh stated that at least 10% of the courses Western students take should look at global issues in some serious way, and that the university does a great disservice to our students to *not* look at global issues in all our courses. Dr. Bideshi said that 10% of all the courses a student takes would equal roughly four 3 s.h. courses. Dr. Singh argued that the Council should step up and be leaders for once, and Dr. Obregon agreed that we are often satisfied with comparing ourselves to our "peer institutions." He asked why we couldn't compare ourselves to Cambridge for once. Dr. Bideshi agreed that the Council should be leading the movement for global issues on campus, and that 50% of a student's course work being GI courses would also be highly acceptable.

b. Dr. Singh proposed the introduction of a tier system of GI compliance, where departments would be able to say they were GI compliant to some percentage point. He stated that each program could then specify a given percentage of GI courses as the amount of course work its students would need to be globally competent. Mr. Stierman added that the exact percentages would not be as important to the Council as would be making the administration responsible for acknowledging the importance of global competence. Mr. Stierman said the Council's role should be to provide the tools for departments and faculty to become GI-compliant, as well as timetables for meeting compliance standards.

c. Mr. Stierman went on to say that every department needs to have some sort of metric or device to determine how well they are meeting GI compliance, recalling how Dean Martinelli-Fernandez had asked at a previous CIE meeting how she would get her chairs to cooperate with the GI requirements. Dr. Bideshi noted that the Council had reviewed our metric as it currently existed in previous meetings, looking at course percentages, syllabus reviews and the like. Dr. Singh noted that the Council's metric was not very reliable as it depended on self-reports, and there were other issues as well. Mr. Stierman proposed that each department could identify a faculty member who would act as that department's GI Best Practices person, noting that it is helpful if there is one individual in a department or group who ignites the faculty's interest in GI competence.

d. Dr. Singh stated that a good place to begin would be to administer a basic GI test to students, for the purpose of collecting data on the degree to which Western' students were or were not globally competent. This data could then be presented to the administration. Dr. Obregon stated that an additional problem will be to create an incentive for faculty members to include GI components in their courses. Dr. Obergon said he often asked his students questions about what was going on in the world in general, noting that his international students often knew a bit more about world issues than his American students. Dr. Obregon proposed that CITR establish a program whereby students could earn some course credit for taking continuing education classes about general world issues.

e. For the purposes of providing feedback to the college deans after their visits to CIE meetings, Dr. Bideshi identified three items. The first was the recognition that there must be more institutional support for GI awareness. The second was the development of a survey to determine what degree of compliance departments would have with GI course requirements. The final item was to have a GI course requirement added to the General Education curriculum.

#### **V. Multicultural Definitions Work Group**

a. Dr. Bideshi asked the Council if anyone had comments on the GERC/Multicultural group document sent to council members earlier. The Council had none at this time.

b. Dr. Bideshi asked what sort of progress had been made on definitions of "culture" by the CIE definitions subcommittee. Mr. Stierman said he would look over the definitions in the next week and pass along any changes to the Council. Dr. Bideshi said he would like to have some concrete definitions by the time of the Council's last meeting for this academic year.

#### **VII. Meeting adjournment**

a. Motion to adjourn (Obregon), seconded (Stierman). Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM

Next meeting will take place on at 1:00 PM on Monday, May 7, 2018.

Minutes submitted by Michael Murray.