Minutes from the Council for International Education

3:00 PM, Thursday, January 21, 2016

Horrabin Hall 60 and the WIU Quad Cities Codec Room (QC Complex 2203)

In attendance: Gary Schmidt (chair), Pedro Bidegaray (*ex officio*), Chandra Amaravadi, Sean Cordes, Fetene Gebrewold, George Gunzenhauser (in the Quad Cities), Jana Marikova, Michael Murray, Rafael Obregon, and Yong Tang.

I. Motion to approve CIE Minutes from December 11, 2015:

Motion seconded.

Addendum to minutes from December 11, 2015. Faculty Senate Recording Secretary Annette

Hamm asked to clarify item II. C from the Dec. 11 minutes as follows: New courses being

submitted for approval from CCPI and the CIE can go before both councils at the same time,

because these approvals are two separate processes. If an existing course is being submitted

for Global Issues approval, then CCPI approval is not required; it needs only to be approved by

the CIE.

Minutes approved as written with above addendum.

II. Pedro Bidegaray, Director of Study Abroad and Outreach: Campus Internationalization Efforts.

a) Dr. Bidegaray presented the work of his office and the Committee for Internationalization, a mission group organized by his office, the Center for International Studies (CIS). His appearance at this meeting was intended to foster cooperation between the CIS and the CIE, and to elicit ideas and feedback.

b) Generally, the goal of the Committee for Internationalization is to make international education an integral part of the educational experience at WIU. The key mission is to promote a program of “comprehensive internationalization” at the level of higher education here at WIU. Dr. Bidegaray outlined two ways this program is being promoted: 1) by increasing the number of students travelling abroad, and 2) by supporting the efforts of the institution globally, in terms of support for research, reaching out to foreign institutions for support and cooperation, and establishing outreach programs such as a summer institute in which the CIS would promote what we do at WIU in terms of international education. This institute would include actual and virtual (via Skype) exchanges of students and faculty from foreign schools.

c) Dr. Bidegaray described how most WIU students who participate in a study abroad program are usually self-motivated, i.e., they are not motivated by faculty to participate in a study abroad program, but instead, they themselves express an interest in going overseas and do most of the work involved in finding and enrolling in a program that fits their needs on their own. Currently, about 1% of WIU students participate in such programs, which is well below the national average of approximately 9%, and most of our students participate in short term programs lasting 2-3 weeks. Dr. Bidegaray explained that he and the CIS wanted to move away from having students initiate the process of looking for study abroad programs, and move toward departmental and university integration of a study abroad program initiative, where participation in a study abroad program would be a strongly recommended part of all areas of study in the University.

d) Dr. Bidegaray explained that successful establishment of a program of “comprehensive internationalization” would be tied to clarifying and promoting the value of international education, and expanding the boundaries of what international education means to students. Along with this would be the establishment of a set of competencies that students would derive from a study abroad experience.

e) Comments from CIE members: Mr. Cordes said that we should work with faculty to develop a comprehensive plan for increasing participation in study abroad programs. Dr. Gebrewold discussed his past experiences with taking students to Ethiopia, and mentioned that one area students tend to overlook is study abroad programs in Third World and developing nations, and that we need to work on that. Dr. Gebrewold and several other members of the committee discussed the problems of funding, which remains the largest obstacle preventing students from studying abroad. Dr. Obregon described his study abroad experiences and mentioned how he had taken groups of 24-30 students to Canada, Queretaro, and other localities on grant-funded programs. Dr. Obregon’s programs lasted between 5-16 weeks, and resulted in students earning some credit hours in each of three universities using a business focus.

III. New business: none

IV. Motion to adjourn & seconded.

Next meeting will be Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 2:00 PM

Minutes submitted by Michael Murray