Minutes from the Council for International Education

3:00 PM, Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Stipes Hall 207 and the Quad Cities via video conference

In attendance: Chandra Amaravadi (chair), Pedro Bidegaray *(ex officio)*, Davison Bideshi, Christina Davis, Boh Young Lee, Michael Murray, Christina Norton, Rafael Obregon, Yong Tang and Carol Webb (via video conference).

I. Introduction of new and returning CIE members.

II. Motion to approve CIE Minutes from December 7, 2016.

a. Motion seconded. Minutes approved with following corrections: “Minutes submitted by Michael Murray” was removed, the next meeting date was corrected and the page 2 header was changed to show correct meeting date.

III. Feedback from Faculty Senate.

a. Dr. Amaravadi reviewed the Faculty Senate’s recommendations for changes to the proposed CIE Policies and Procedures (P&P) document, noting the Senate’s request that the CIE P&P document should be modelled on the current Writing in the Discipline (WID) P&P document.

IV. Global Issues Course Goals and Objectives – Implementation Plans.

a. Referring to the Writing in the Discipline (WID) course evaluation and WID review report forms, the Council discussed ways in which the equivalent CIE documents could be modeled on those of the WID Committee. Dr. Davison suggested that the CIE should name three members to review specific courses. Amaravadi suggested that if these members found a course fulfilled the Global Issues criteria, there would be no need for the members to meet with the department chair. If there were a problem, the members could meet with the chair. Dr. Obregon stressed that the Council should not police compliance, but function instead in an advisory capacity. Other changes and adaptations of the WID documents were discussed, and at the conclusion of this, Dr. Amaravadi said he would produce and distribute drafts of the CIE P&P and course evaluation documents before the Council’s next meeting.

V. Campus Internationalization.

a. Dr. Amaravadi presented a document on internationalization initiatives on the WIU campus that was earlier handed out by Dr. Bidegaray. The latter then discussed the over 70 partnerships that WIU has had with overseas academic institutions in the past, and noted that these partnerships are gradually dissolving as time passes because no one is keeping in contact with the distant institutions. Dr. Bidegaray suggested that interim director of International Studies Dr. Jeff Hancks should attend a CIE meeting, stating that this is something that he should be aware of because of his close involvement with the Center for International Studies.

b. The Council discussed other issues facing it and the rest of the University in its struggle toward internationalization. Dr. Bideshi asked if there was a university calendar that showed international events, and if so, how or if the Council was using it. Dr. Amaravadi wondered how we would know if helping to publicize international events on campus was sufficient, to which Dr. Bidegaray responded that we would not know until we had some sort of mission statement that set out clear internationalization goals to be achieved.

c. Dr. Tang observed that WIU was far behind the national average in terms of how many students participated in study abroad programs. Dr. Bideshi asked if the foreign language conversation hours were having any effect on internationalization. Mr. Murray asked how the campus would be different for students if we were to determine at some future date that we had met our internationalization goals. Dr. Tang again stressed the urgency of the need for our campus to internationalize, and declared that our failure to do so was hurting the university.

VI. Motion to adjourn.

a. Motion seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 3:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Michael Murray.