

INSTRUCTION COUNCIL

July 24, 2009

204 Whitehurst

MINUTES

Present: Raj Basu, Celeste Campbell, Bruce Crauder, Bob Davis, Bavette Miller, Ed Miller, Shiretta Ownbey, Mark Payton, Chris Ross, David Thompson, Mark Weiser, Gerry Auel, Jim Hromas, Jose Saranaga, and Gail Gates.

1. Expansion of Short Term Study Abroad – Jim Hromas and Jose Saranaga

Dr. Hromas noted that some time ago Faculty Council recommended setting a goal for 100% of OSU students to have a study abroad experience. The goal was set at 25% in 5 years and International Education and Outreach (IEO) would like input from members on how to accomplish these objectives. Short term classes encompass 340 students. Study Abroad coordinators have been working with Gerry Auel to develop a Study Abroad Matrix to share with the International Advisory Council, School of International Studies Executive Committee, and Provost Strathe. The Study Abroad Matrix lists recommendations, actions, responsible office and completion dates. May is OSU's big month for study abroad courses although Dr. Strathe had indicated an interest in offering more courses, perhaps in January. Members asked if only credit courses were counted in the data and the reply was yes. Members noted that they thought the goal of the initiative was for each student to have an "international experience", not necessarily an OSU faculty-led course. Dr. Basu asked how this applies to international student who already have international experience. Dr. Hromas noted that a Faculty Council recommendation to create a central office to conduct study abroad was approved by administration. Dr. Hromas presented a proposal to Provost Strathe and commented that this initiative would require a great deal of funding and perhaps it would be more cost efficient to have a central area for inquires but the main operations would still funnel through the colleges. Members noted that it would be a detrimental to their colleges to centralize study abroad. Jose noted that some universities are approaching their international faculty to offer OSU courses in their home countries. International Education and Outreach plans to invite the Provost from Kansas to speak to OSU about study abroad.

Jose commented that IEO has an office in Mexico and they working with A&S to create a 3-4 week program with general education courses. Faculty from OSU and/or Pueblo, Mexico will be teaching the course which will include field trips. The cost for the course is estimated at \$2500. The course will be offered through Arts and Sciences but any student can take the class. Jose commented that IEO has an office in Mexico and they are creating a 3-4 week program in general education which consists of 10 courses. Faculty from OSU and/or Pueblo, Mexico will be teaching the course which will include field experience and field trips. The cost for the course is estimated at \$2500. The course will be offered through Arts and Sciences but any student can take the class.

Dr. Miller commented that the College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences would be willing to assist funding faculty members if enrollment would support the costs. Dr. Weiser indicated SSB has recently been working to increase the number of faculty-led courses.

2. Curricular Request

School of International Studies

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES MINOR

New Minor

The minor will be designed to meet the international studies interests of all students, regardless of their primary academic major. This will be achieved through three design dimensions: 1) selection of courses for the minor that have modest prerequisites; 2) acceptance of courses that currently apply to one's current major; and 3) recognizing the minor on the students' transcript as evidence of a global complement to the

major field. This design should both increase the number of students with heightened international perspectives and, more narrowly, those gaining an international experience.

Members asked if students have to have an international experience to have the minor. IEO withdrew the minor request to allow the staff time to discuss the proposal with colleges that have international minors.

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

FISHERIES AND AQUATIC ECOLOGY MINOR New Minor

The proposed minor in Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology is aimed at serving the curricular and professional development interests of undergraduates in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management (NREM), and as well, providing an opportunity for students in allied programs in CASNR and the College of Arts and Sciences, particularly those in the life sciences. The new minor in Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology will complement NREM's existing programs and provide students with knowledge and skills to enhance their careers in natural resource use and management.

Members approved the request.

3. **SPEAK/IBT, ITA – Mark Payton**

Dr. Payton noted that students are required to take the SPEAK test followed by the ITA exam. The TOEFL recently added a speaking portion in the internet based test. There are four sub scores in the TOEFLi test and if a student makes a certain score on the speaking section the student is not required to take the ITA exam. The English department has mentioned the possibility of eliminating the SPEAK test and only use the speaking portion of the TOEFLi to ascertain if students will be able to make effective instructors. Members questioned why the English Department driving this proposal and it was noted that they are the experts in Teaching English as a Second Language. Dr. Payton provided the percentile handout from the TOEFL website and provided TOEFLi scores for our students coded as teaching assistants. The results reveal that few teaching assistants pass the speaking portion of the TOEFLi. The fee structure for charging for the testing is students pay for the SPEAK test but not the ITA exam. Dr. Payton asked if OSU should restructure the fee structure and process. Members asked if other institutions in the Big XII have been contacted to find out what processes they have in place for the testing. Members expressed concerns with the speaking abilities of teaching assistants in the labs. Dr. Payton agreed to provide the spreadsheet with TOEFL results for TAs.

4. **Implementation of New Policy for Auditing Courses – Celeste Campbell**

Dr. Campbell handed out the revised implementation of the policy on auditing courses and wanted to get clarification from members that the laboratory courses, private music lessons, studio art courses, outreach courses (500 and 600 sections), and other courses that require special fees are not open for audit enrollment unless exceptions are made. Dr. Campbell asked if supplemental, 900 sections, should be included and members replied yes. Dr. Campbell will contact John Smith to get a list of the courses that charge special fees. Dr. Campbell asked members who they wanted to approve the audit requests and they said the Instructor, Department Head and Dean/designee should approve the request and exceptions would be approved at the Dean level.

5. **Other**

Dr. Davis has had faculty express concerns about the Academic Integrity process for graduate students and would like to have an honor statement created that graduate students would sign.

Adjourn: 10:35 a.m.