

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted to Policy Council: April 17, 2013

Chairs: Bradley Levinson and Dionne Cross

MEMBERS:

Deborah Hutton, Laura Stachowski, Leslie Rutkowski, Rex Stockton, Yonjoo Cho, David Rutkowski, Conney Freese-Posthuma, Keith Morran, Mitzi Lewison, and Luise McCarty

STUDENT MEMBER:

Oren Pizmony-Levy

EX-OFFICIO:

Elizabeth Boling, Linda Hanek and Nancy Boatner

STAFF:

Avital Deskalo

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

The International Programs Committee (IPC) held seven meetings during the 2012-2013 academic year, in which it addressed a number of topics related to the IU School of Education's international initiatives. The following are summaries of the Committee's key activities.

International Advisory Committee

Linda Hanek established a student committee that could act as a liaison between international students and the International Programs Committee. The International Advisory Committee and IPC will collaborate on projects to increase cultural competency in the SOE. Under that umbrella, several of the committee members may actively work on data collection, outreach, or follow up, on such tasks as Linda Hanek's international programming and webpage, and collaboration with Dr. Cho's students to examine the international infrastructure of peer schools.

International Programming

Breakfast Clubs. Linda Hanek organized the first breakfast club for international students and visiting scholars. The breakfast event was a success. She addressed the international students and visiting scholars on behalf of the IPC and Dean's Office. Linda Hanek is considering scheduling two breakfast events a semester. At the event, she invited attendees to a think tank session to discuss their transition into the SoE community.

Think Tank Sessions. The think tank session was organized as a forum for international students and scholars to discuss solutions on how to improve their experience here at IU. Graduate student Ria Roy facilitated the discussion. Thirteen people signed up for think tank sessions. The first session was conducted Friday, February 8th, from 3:30-5:30pm. Linda Hanek gleaned topics

from the SoE and Campus International Barometer surveys along with the needs analysis provided by IST students this fall. The IPC awaits a summary and documentation from Ria Roy.

International Education Week

The first annual International Education Week celebration in the SoE, a joint initiative of the Office of the Dean and the IPC, took place on Wednesday, November 13th during the week of November 12-16th. The greater campus has celebrated this event for several years, but there were no special events held in the SOE in which faculty and students could participate. The event was well attended by approximately 150 students, staff, and faculty. In order to further develop this event, a planning committee is being established by Linda, which will include IPC members and other faculty. Presently, Serafin Colonel- Molina, Donna Adomat, Beth Samuelson, and Carmen Medina are interested. A first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 18th. Dionne Cross and Mitzi Lewison will attend planning meetings as often as their schedules allow. All IPC members are invited to assist. The goal is to plan well in advance so additional events can be included beyond the photo show, and international foods that were offered this year. (We had included a literacy component, but didn't have enough submissions to hold that event. With advanced planning this piece will likely develop well for 2013).

For next year, the Committee brainstormed several suggestions. Linda Hanek suggested that using a caterer next year would help. Also, we should add elements that are student-driven, such as reaching out to international student groups. Professors may also include information in their syllabi about International Education Week and thus tie information about events into the curriculum. Also, Elizabeth Boling indicated that in the past students would give personal invitations to teachers to come to events during this week. Marketing will take place in a more timely manner since we know that we are actually having celebratory events in the school this fall, and will have working and planning committees. This past year, the slideshow was made available via Youtube for those who couldn't attend.

Visiting Scholars

Exit Interviews. An exit interview is another tool used to help increase cultural competency within the SOE. Linda Hanek expressed the importance of doing the exit interviews for security purposes and to gain feedback from the scholars. She indicated that one of the questions – “What could your department do to improve your stay?” – has yielded several important responses from the scholars, which gives the IPC an opportunity to take action. The answers from the interviews thus far have focused on departmental orientations and getting involved in research teams.

Visiting Scholars Website. The visiting scholars page is in process of development. Due to issues with keeping up with the scholars' names on the webpage, Linda Hanek suggested to instead include information about visiting scholar programming, breakfast clubs, receptions, and general opportunities and responsibilities for scholars, such as speaking to different classes. This course of action will make the webpage more welcoming and personal without having to list specific names. Linda Hanek will also include photos from the visiting scholar events.

Visiting Scholars' Reception. The IPC and the Dean's Office have collaborated to organize a bi-annual reception for visiting scholars. The fall reception took place during International Education Week and the spring reception took place during the first week of April. The chairpersons of the IPC presented a welcoming introduction. Then, if the hosts came, the chairs introduced the host, and the host presented the visiting scholars with certificates.

Collaboration between the Goodwill Ambassadors (GWA) Program and the School of Education Graduate Student Association (SOEGSA)

The GWA program was revived this year. Dan Dethrow, president of the SOEGSA, attended the IPC meeting to provide input on the Goodwill Ambassadors selection process. First, he indicated the need to be explicit about expectations for GWA volunteers. Since there is a fall orientation for international graduate students and some students will arrive during the summer, it would be important to ask volunteers to agree to a summer commitment; perhaps just e-mail and phone communication between GWA and students would suffice. The GWA volunteers would commit to a year of service. The distinction between mentor and ambassador should be established. GWA volunteers should know that their positions are not life-long commitments. Other expectations would address what information to provide to international students, such as resources to help them adjust to IU and Bloomington. Also, if students ask about advising questions, the GWAs can help direct their questions to faculty and departments. GWAs were recruited via departments by the SOEGSA during early spring. The SOEGSA communicated with Linda Hanek of the Dean's Office for approval on marketing and summary materials.

It was important to provide a GWA orientation this spring since the GWAs would be activated this summer. Linda Hanek conducted the orientation on Friday, March 29th. All GWAs attended as did Dan Dethrow. Linda provided information such as OIS links (for inquiries into areas that GWAs should not speak to, like visas or health insurance) and used the SoE website to show GWAs how to update their online profile, and where key departmental information is on line, etc. Plans are in place for sharing any information that might be helpful – that may come of the think tank sessions' summary once the IPC reviews and approves it. A Panera lunch was provided via the Office of the Dean to attendees. Linda Hanek will provide guidance to GWAs over the course of their commitment, inclusive of any IPC developed/approved media. GWAs will also be invited to attend the fall graduate student orientation (hosted by the SOEGSA) -- as many international grad students also attend this.

Orientation of International AIs

Linda Hanek had a meeting with Instructional Consulting (IC) staff toward utilizing their webinar presentation, "Teaching American Students" in various ways with international AIs. The presentation will be kept available and advertised to International AIs, but there will also be a personal interactive session with them in the fall once everyone has had a week or two of teaching. It will be a brunch on a Friday; IC staff will attend and mingle with the group for more personal support and sharing. According to Elizabeth Boling, Adam Maltese is doing professional development for AIs. She said suicide prevention and a discussion of CPR are now being added to the orientation.

Monitoring Developments Bearing on IPC Activities

Especially during the fall semester, the IPC took time during its meetings to discuss the search for a new Director for the Center for Social Studies and International Education (CSSIE) and to provide input to members of the search committee. Members of IPC were encouraged to take part in candidates' visits, and a successful search was announced in March with the hiring of Dr. Patricia Kubow. The IPC also took time during its meetings for updates from Bradley Levinson,

who serves on the Faculty Advisory Board of the new School for Global and International Studies.

Needs Analysis from Dr. Cho's Students Regarding International Students' Issues

Four students from Dr. Cho's class presented the results of a study commissioned by the IPC. Before they began, they discussed the research process briefly. The students presented on four components derived from their analysis: Political, Economic, Social and Technological (PAST) factors, Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis, force field analysis and recommendations. The five recommendations were: 1) to place the IPC in charge of this issue of meeting international students' needs, carrying out the recommendations in this study and tracking the progress; 2) to strengthen existing resources; 3) to develop a discussion forum on SOE's website for international graduate students to use; 4) to build up the GWA program through creating an incentive program to draw a bigger volunteer base; and 5) to improve communications between students and IU.

Expanding International Programs

Because of concern about whether the IPC, as a policy committee, is truly adequate to respond to the ever-expanding needs for coordinating international research, teaching, and service in the SoE, the IPC commissioned a study to identify partner institution SOEs equally dedicated to international affairs and determine what offices or administrative structures they have put in place to attend to such affairs. Based on information garnered, the IPC might eventually make recommendations to the Dean's office about adopting similar offices or structures. Also, this information would help the SOE at IU engage in best practices for international programming.

Tiffany Chang, a graduate assistant in the Graduate Studies Office who had conducted a web-based search on the international infrastructure of Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) member universities (Michigan State University (MSU), IU, Penn State, Purdue, University of Minnesota, and University of Illinois), presented her initial findings. Pursuant to this initial report, the committee brainstormed a few different ideas, then decided to work with Yonjoo Cho's students to conduct an evaluation this semester. A subcommittee of the IPC (Bradley Levinson, Elizabeth Boling, Deb Hutton, Yonjoo, Cho, and Linda Hanek) was established to guide Dr. Cho's students in the collection of data, which involved surveys and interviews with faculty, staff, and international students at the aforementioned peer Schools of Education. Upon receiving the students' evaluation report on April 16th, the sub-committee is likely to draft its own summary report with possible recommendations to the Policy Council and the Dean's office.

Future Directions for the International Programs Committee

Below are issues and initiatives identified by members of the IPC as priorities for next year's committee:

- Using the findings and recommendations from students' evaluation report, continue discussions about ways to strengthen the SOE's infrastructure to support initiatives related to internationalizing education, international students and visiting scholars. These discussions should include Patricia Kubow, the new director of CSSIE.
- Organize a working group to plan activities for International Education Week