

IU School of Education International Programs Committee -- Annual Report

Committee members: Elizabeth Boling (ex officio), Ria Roy, Laura Stachowski, Martha Nyikos, Erna Alant, Rex Stockton, Conney Freese-Posthuma, Dionne Cross, Ilknur Kelceoglu, Terry Mason, Kate Baird, Bradley Levinson, Nelda Montemayor, Deborah Hutton, Tom Sexton, Heidi Ross

This committee was convened for the first time in the second semester of the academic year and only met twice. As a result, the committee's activities were limited, but the committee did manage to accomplish several things and to set some priorities for the next academic year.

The IPC met first on March 3, 2011 and elected Terry Mason to be chair. Since little time was left in the year, the committee decided not to launch any major projects, but rather to address a few questions that seemed to be of some concern to the members, notably the issue of how visiting international scholars are welcomed to the School, the role they play during their time here, and what expectations they have of us and we of them. Members of the committee wanted to know about the process in the School for sponsoring and supporting visiting international scholars and what resources were devoted to visiting international scholars. The committee was also interested in knowing more about how international graduate students are supported in the School, so it was suggested that we get a report on the Goodwill Ambassadors program that provides mentors for international students. Martha Nyikos and Ria Roy agreed to look into this program and Ria reported at our next meeting that the IPC needed to update the Goodwill Ambassador Web page and email department chairs to recruit participants for the coming year. Another concern of the committee was the process by which the School and the University established official partnerships with universities in other countries. Are there priorities in terms of university status, geographical location, or other factors that influence decisions about which universities enter into formal partnerships with IU and how are these priorities established?

To address these questions the committee decided to invite Dean Gonzalez to a subsequent IPC meeting to get an understanding of the Dean's perspective on these issues and to shed some light on the questions that had been raised. Dean Gonzalez joined us at our second (and final) meeting of the year on April 14, 2011. The dean began by referring to the current procedure for visiting international scholar applications that is handled by Connie Freese-Posthuma in the Dean's office. According to this procedure those applying for visiting scholar status must follow an application process that involves the University's International Programs Office and a faculty sponsor in the School must be identified for each visiting scholar. Concerning the question of how to better support these visitors, the Dean suggested that the committee develop a protocol with suggestions for visiting faculty sponsors to provide guidance for them as they work with visiting scholars. Also, the IPC could be instrumental in communicating with the faculty each year about current visiting scholars, their interests, their research plans, and their academic and social needs during their stay at IU. The committee decided that at the beginning of the next academic year we would obtain a roster of visiting scholars and seek ways to provide opportunities for the visitors to share their interests and scholarly work with the IU School of Education faculty (seminars, brown bags, email announcements, postings on the IPC Web page).

The Dean also explained the current policies regarding strategic partnerships, institutional partnerships, and service agreements that could be established with universities from other countries. A formal University process exists that must be followed in establishing these inter-university relationships and the Dean expressed his support for the School's involvement in international partnerships that would benefit the School, the University and the community. He also informed us that the Dean's office could provide funds to sponsor a welcome reception for international visiting scholars and students. The committee decided to assume responsibility for planning and hosting such an event in the fall of the 2011-2012 academic year. The committee will pass along its suggestions to next year's IPC for reviving the Goodwill Ambassadors program, hosting a reception for international scholars and students, and developing more ways to integrate visiting scholars into the life of the School.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Mason
IPC Chair
April 26, 2011