ISAC Minutes

A meeting of the International Studies Advisory Council was held on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 3:30 in Copeland Hall 244.

Present: Barbara Amundson, Stephen Amundson, Diana Jones, Sonja Kropp, Matt Mims, Will Aviles, Suzanne Maughan, Susan Honeyman, Ann Marie Park, Sylvia Asay
Absent: Amy Rundstrom, Tone Mendoza

Lilly welcomed all members back after the Fall semester hiatus while she was on leave. Amy Rundstrom was ill and not able to present her report on advising and INTS 100, but all present agreed the semester had gone very smoothly!

Lilly reported on the progress of our scholarship recipients. Two of the four provided solid documentation of their service for the semester. There was some confusion with the third regarding the amount of her award—she thought she had been awarded only $500, although she in fact received $2500, and so did not perform sufficient service. However, she and Amy worked out an arrangement that allows her to retain the scholarship for the spring semester with the agreement that she will complete the missing service hours either during the spring, or more likely over the summer of 2014, by helping Ann Marie Park with the World Leaders Camp. Unfortunately, the fourth student to whom we had provided a provisional scholarship of $500 not only did not document any hours of service but is also on academic probation this semester. The committee agreed that we need to ask Mary Sommers again about reworking our INTS scholarship process within the online system. Amy Rundstrom had previously agreed to help with those negotiations.

Lilly provided an update on assessment plans—Last spring and in our APR we agreed to change our assessment plan so that we would rely mainly on Senior Seminar Capstone papers. Lilly did not complete and assessment report this summer because we had only one Senior Seminar paper to evaluate. Since then 2-3 more have come in, but more importantly, there are currently 7 students in the INTS 496 Senior Seminar class. Therefore at the end of this semester we should have at least 10 capstone papers to evaluate. The Advisory Council agreed that it would make the most sense to evaluate all of the papers then at the end of the spring semester, which not only provides us with a reasonable pool, but will allow us also some opportunity to compare the papers of those who completed the paper in a class vs those who did so as an independent study. Lilly agreed to discuss this plan with the Assessment Director.

Discussion then followed regarding the Modern Languages International Film Series at the World Theatre. All members are pleased that we are able to participate in this important series and agree with the films selected for this year. The Committee decided that for the time being it would commit $500 per semester to the Series in hopes that additional investors in the series could be found in the future which would allow us to eventually reduce our commitment somewhat.

A lengthy discussion ensued about Internships. There was general agreement that the internships provided by Ann Marie and the Office of International Education can be valuable for some students but that many will wish to seek other alternatives. Several members argued that it is ultimately the student’s responsibility to find the Internships and the INTS program need
only “vet” them and help create a course and some framework for providing credit. It was strongly suggested that any course created be “on-line” for a variety of reasons.

The Advisory council supported the proposal for the Kelly grant submitted by Lilly and Park with no substantial changes.

Lilly discussed with the advisory council a number of structural and advising issues which have arisen in the last several months, most significantly the decision to reinstate the rule on “double counting” between majors and minors of no more than 6 hours. Although this rule had existed previously, it ceased to function for a period after 2010 and many of our students planned their courses on the information given to Lilly multiple times by the registrar’s office that the rule no longer existed. Then, suddenly in early September, Lilly was informed that it had returned and was being reinstated retroactively for INTS students in particular and perhaps more broadly. The Registrar’s office has been helpful in ensuring that appropriate substitutions were made so that all INTS students preparing to graduate this spring would still be able to do so. However, the newly reinstated rule continues to confuse and adversely affect our juniors in particular. It remains unclear how or why it was possible and necessary to reinstate this rule retroactively.

Finally, council members agreed that since we did not hold an International and Study Abroad Fair in November as usual, we would do so this spring—both for recruiting purposes and to encourage study abroad. After considerable discussion of our alternatives, the date was set for Friday, March 14.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6 at 3:30 in Copeland 244.