ISAC Minutes

A meeting of the International Studies Advisory Council was held on Thursday Sept 18, 2014 at 3:30 in the Dean’s Conference Room of Copeland Hall.
Present: Amy Rundstrom, Barbara Amundson, Steve Amundson, Diana Jones, Ann Marie Park, Sylvia Asay, Will Aviles
Absent: Sonja Kropp, Suzanne Maughan, Tone Mendoza, Matt Mims

The meeting began with a discussion of the replacement for Susan Honeyman as faculty representative from the College of Fine Arts and Humanities. Several names were considered. Lilly will make a choice and contact them and the Dean.

Lilly then updated the Council regarding this year’s INTS Service Scholarship recipients. In contrast to previous years, they will be assigned to Exchange Visitors and will be asked to ensure that they are provided an opportunity to engage in significant cultural opportunities on or off campus. We have established for that purpose a Blackboard Acct where they can document their activities. The students have also set up a Facebook acct. We are hosting an ice cream social as an initial ice breaker event on Sept. 22.

Lilly then discussed with the Council a variety of upcoming events related to INTS.
2) Career Fair: Oct. 7 This year for the first time we received a request from an organization (Sandhills Publishing) seeking students with foreign language and intercultural skills. They will be attending the career fair. The Office of Academic Advising and Career Services and Office of Study Abroad are working together to contact businesses and revise materials for career fair to encourage businesses to inform us and students if they have international connections or opportunities for students. We also hope to have more such information for our own International and Study Abroad Fair.
3) Japanese Information Center—The Japanese Embassy is sending someone to talk to our students about job and internship opportunities. Most do not require knowledge of Japanese language, some do. This sounds really great for our students. We are not sure when the delegate is coming—she was supposed to come in late Oct but has changed it to November.
4) We will host our annual International and Study Abroad Fair this year on Nov. 10. Ann Marie Park has reserved the Ponderosa room for it. Thanks to Barbara Amundon’s list, Lilly will send out reminders to all to do what they have done in past years.
5) Lilly recently received information from a group called LibertyinNorthKorea that has offered to come to UNK and host a presentation for a very small fee ($100). They also request that we find places for their presenters to sleep (couches, floors) and a meal for them. Lilly checked them out and they appear to be legitimate. The Council agreed it sounded like a good deal, esp since they said they would likely be here at about the same time as our International/Study Abroad Fair. Lilly agreed to follow up on it.
6) Lilly then also suggested to the Council a speaker for the spring semester. She recommended Masha Gessen an expert on Russia who has written books on Putin, Pussy
Riot and LGBT issues. Her multiple areas of expertise will make her of interest to many constituents on campus including History, Poli Sci, English, Theatre, Women’s and Gender Studies, Sociology, Family Studies to name a few. Lilly has been in contact with Gessen who has agreed to come for a reduced fee. Lilly will continue with these negotiations and will write a grant proposal to Faculty Senate Artists and Lecturers.

The next item on the agenda was assessment. This was the first year that a significant number of students completed the Program’s new curriculum and finished the Capstone course. The Program therefore assessed for the first time 8 graduating students based on their completion of the capstone course. However, there were some problems with the assessment based on the tools provided. Part of the problem related to the learning objectives which were not entirely appropriate for the way that the capstone course is taught. As a result, the Council agreed to merge what had been two L.O.s into one: The new learning objective will read, “Analyze the forces and impact of globalization.” Another problem had to do with definitions of globalization and how it applies to papers which are more historically or narrowly defined. However, after much discussion, the Council agreed that almost any international topic CAN be related to globalization. The next problem is how to insert that concept into a research paper. Rather than require that “globalization” per se become the thesis of each research paper, the Council agreed to add a “reflection section” onto each capstone paper that will address the question of how the topic relates to the issue of globalization. Lilly also agreed to review the rubric more broadly for issues relating to sources and interdisciplinarity.

The final item on the agenda related to the idea of creating a new Asian Studies Minor. Lilly addressed the idea, where it had come from, what students it might serve, and what potential problems it might encounter. After much discussion, the Council agreed that Lilly should continue with work on the minor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50. The next meeting will be October 16 at 3:30 in the Dean’s conference room of NSS.