

International Education and Services  
Minutes April 18, 2006

Present: Daryl Thomas, John Rector, Kathy Thompson, David Doellinger, Uma Shrestha, Cheryl Strand, Ann Bliss

Unable to attend: Michelle Price (along with our provost) was attending a reception for the delegation (including their president, vice president, dean of arts and sciences and the site director of OUS) from Poitiers, France to renew an OUS exchange program agreement. Neng Yang was orienting several new students from China who have just arrived in the States.

Approved Minutes from Jan 2006, the last formal committee meeting. Committee met Feb. 21 to hear Dr. John Ayam, Fulbright Scholar from Nigeria, speaking on "Islamic Fundamentalism in Northern Nigeria".

John Rector reminded us that Dr. Emily Plec is organizing a display at the Library of bibliographies of international faculty or faculty who've taught abroad. John has already sent Dr. Plec a list of WOU faculty who would be eligible.

Agenda:

1. International Cultural Service Program Applications (ICSP) review for scholarship award has taken place this year with John Rector, David Doellinger, Doug Smith and Neng Yang serving on this sub-committee. This committee has a request: next year the committee would like to review the applications beforehand, and they would like a more structured protocol to use to review (there is one that was used in the past). There is also a question about one of the students receiving the award, we're looking into the status of one of the recipients, who may be returning for a graduate program.
2. Two new proposed programs (Akita International University, Japan; Deakin University, Australia) from OUS were considered. The committee agrees that we should have as many opportunities for our students as possible. There is a question of cost, does WOU pay extra for adding more programs? There is also a concern about adding another program to these two locations since we already have programs in Australia and Japan. Michelle had suggested we invite Paul Primak (OUS) to our next meeting in May. The committee agreed to that so we will have a chance to meet and discuss any questions.
3. Recently Michelle has received information from OUS regarding WOU faculty inviting students to participate in international research and projects. Generally summarized as follows: WOU faculty who are interested in developing international opportunities for WOU students, whether credit or non-credit, must go through the approved program proposal process established at WOU. This includes opportunities that faculty involved in international research and projects make available to their students. WOU faculty may not promote international programs and projects that have not been approved and authorized by WOU nor offer academic credit for such courses, programs, internships, activities, etc. Doing so implies a connection with WOU that does not exist.

The committee recognizes that WOU would be liable in a situation where a WOU faculty member is taking WOU students, even if it is a program not affiliated with this university. Therefore we feel that supporting and following the established protocol is justified. However this committee does want to encourage and promote international opportunities and not make the approved program protocol a barrier. This committee requests that Michelle make this as simple as possible for faculty, and write up an application document that fulfills the requirements of OUS and WOU. We can review and approve this by next meeting, by email if need be, since there may be faculty needing this to be done soon.

4. Discussion of changes at WOU in International Students and Scholars Affairs. We are all positive with the coming changes as more international students arrive at WOU. Neng Yang has worked with alacrity in building WOU's international programs and the committee wants to assure this success. Committee members discussed what we and others at WOU can do to welcome and care for international students and make sure that WOU is prepared to support these students both socially and academically. There is a concern that all decisions are being made at the administration level and not involving faculty enough. We have questions that we would like to discuss at our future meeting: what is the status of these programs (especially the cooperative degree program with China)? Are WOU departments aware of this new program? Who is the contact person in each department that is aware of and involved in implementing these programs? (even if WOU hires adjunct faculty to teach abroad they must still follow the curriculum each department has designed). What is set up so far and what needs to still be done? Again, we all want to assure success and we are all aware of the ramifications if this endeavor fails. Ramifications for the students involved and for the reputation of WOU.

Meeting adjourned at 5PM.

Next meeting : May 16