

Present: Paul Carr, Educational Leadership & Foundations
Jef Davis, CISP
Annette El-Hayek, CISP
Christian Onwudiwe, Criminal Justice
Tod Porter, Economics
Servio Becerra, Dept. of Foreign Languages
Joe Edwards, F & PA
Tom Oder, Physics and Astronomy
Gunapala Edirisooriya, Education Administration Dept.
William Blake, Student Diversity Programs
Dan O'Neill, Communication
Julie Thomas, Psychology

Regrets: David Porter, Political Science
John Russo, CWS
Matt O'Mansky, Sociology & Anthropology
Jamal Tartir, Math
Tina Weintz, Graduate School
Ray Beiersdorfer, Environmental Sciences

1) Welcome and Introductions:

a) Paul Carr thanked the members for agreeing to join the Council.

2) Overview of IAC

- a) Council Mandate: to support the Center of International Studies and Programs (CISP); to increase the number of foreign students at YSU as well as YSU students going abroad; to support the English Language Institute (ELI); and to generally improve the institutional culture at YSU, including more international curriculum, more speakers, and more activities and projects of an international nature. It is hoped that the Council will play an active and productive role in bringing together interested parties and concerns to further make the campus and university experience at YSU more connected with the international arena.
- b) Forms were distributed requesting volunteers to participate in sub-committees. Students can be part of the subcommittees, and the Chairs of the sub-committees are encouraged to research and address issues related to their respective domains, and then return to the Council with proposals for further discussion and action. Three sub-committees (Students Affairs, Faculty Affairs, and International Issues) were proposed. After discussion, it was apparent that separate sub- committees are needed differentiating international student affairs and study abroad issues. Therefore, the initial three sub-committees will be 1)

International Student Affairs 2) Study Abroad Issues and 3) International Faculty issues

3) Mandate of CISP

- a) The Provost has outlined the three goals of the Center, which reflect the issues raised above: increase international student enrollment, increase the number of students studying abroad, and to make ELI a self-sustaining enterprise. Any additional goals are secondary. CISP does not have a budget to support recruitment but the Provost has identified funds to assist with recruitment efforts.

4) Overview of the Center for International studies and Programs (CISP)

- a) Jef Davis was hired in August 2006 as the Director. Annette El-Hayek is in the newly-created position of International Program Coordinator in December 2006. She is responsible for study-abroad issues, and also provides support for international students. Desa Pavlichich is the secretary. She began in February 2006 at .5 FTE. Her position will be increased from half-time to three-quarter time in March, 2007.
- b) The English Language Institute (ELI) is physically separated from CISP. Lynn Greene is the Coordinator. She spends half her time teaching, and one-quarter of her time coordinating the Institute. There are three ESL teachers on administrative contracts.
- c) CISP does not issue the initial immigration documentation for graduate or undergraduate students. Graduate Studies and Undergraduate Admissions do so for their respective admits. International Faculty immigration issues are now handled in Human Resources. CISP is charged with the recruitment of graduate and undergraduate international students, as well as the ELI will be coordinated with degree program recruitment efforts. The International Advisory Council can play a role in supporting Graduate Studies and Undergraduate Admissions efforts to respond more quickly and effectively to inquiries before potential international students select programs elsewhere.
- d) The Host Family Program has been reconstituted. Six students from Ghana have been matched with host families, and have spent time with them at holidays and other events. Some host families are also willing to pick up international students from the airport. The students desire more interaction with Americans, and the Council can potentially facilitate more mutually beneficial contact. CISP took a group of students to Yellow Duck Park over the Christmas holidays, and it has also organized a bowling party for ELI and Study Abroad students. On February 28, CISP will have a brown bag lunch at Jones Hall, at which time International and American students have a chance to interact. The Jambar has written several articles on CISP sponsored events. The Study Abroad Fair held on February 20 was very well attended. Annette El-Hayek has been going into classrooms and attending faculty meetings to inform people of the services and programs available in the Study Abroad office. There is also an open session on the Study Abroad program held on Thursdays from 4-5pm, and students are welcome to come at any time.

- e) Faculty-led study-abroad programs are very important. It should be noted that the assistance provided by CISP for these arrangements is limited. CISP does do the paperwork on those students involved in study-abroad programs, and can issue International Student Identity Card (ISIC) cards as well as acting as a resource. The cost of study abroad is comparable to on-campus study at YSU, but Annette is trying to dispel myth that “I can’t afford to study abroad.”
- f) YSU has a small and growing international student scholarship, endowed by YSU professor Stephen Hanzely and Brigitta Hanzely.
- g) The CISP web site is currently being worked on to improve functionality. A place on this website will be allocated to the International Advisory Council. The address is: <http://www.ysu.edu/cisp/iac/>

5) Discussion on YSU, CISP and the international milieu

- a) During the round-table discussion, IAC members were asked for suggestions and comments on how the Council could best achieve its objectives and also on what some proposals should focus. As this was the initial meeting, the intention was primarily to provide a context and not to necessarily to identify all of the parameters of a strategic framework or work-plan.

6) Suggestions:

- a) There is a need an international house/center on campus;
- b) There should be more sports possibilities available to bring students together;
- c) An Open-House should be held at the International Student Center with a broad dissemination of what the possibilities are for all of the Colleges and the University in terms of increasing international experiences on campus.
- d) We need a vehicle on campus to welcome international students. First impressions are ever-lasting.
- e) At least once a year we should have a major event with someone of “high caliber” giving a talk on campus in relation to international issues.
- f) The Council could serve as a clearing-house to disseminate information. There are a number of high quality programs that are not fully marketed (i.e., the Ambassador of Taiwan was on campus for two days, and a scholar on the genocide from Rwanda was here for a week, yet many people were unaware of these, and other, events).
- g) Webpage: we need to have something on the first page of the webpage to clearly distinguish how receptive YSU is to international students, faculty, experiences, events, exchanges, etc.. We could also consider using the technology to have interactive segments with students speaking about their experiences, and potential linkages to professors from various backgrounds/nationalities.
- h) We need to make a video of students’ experiences going on study abroad programs, and also the process of preparing for such a venture.

- i) We should try to bring the international faculty together, as this is an undeniable resource in stimulating internationalization at YSU that has not been fully exploited.
- j) Thiel College has an International Week to expose students to international issues. It was suggested that YSU also consider such an initiative.
- k) Phi-Beta-Delta, the international honorary society, should be reinstated.

7) General Discussion

- a) There was agreement that the Provost should be invited to the next meeting as IAC members would like to hear his vision for the University in relation to international affairs.
- b) The University needs to assist International students with adjusting to American culture. American students can also learn from the international students.
- c) Transportation remains an important concern.
- d) There remain many challenges in relation to housing for international students.
- e) Connecting with other clubs on campus that International students can participate in should be a priority to help foster integration and internationalization on campus.

8) Next steps:

- a) Meetings will be held approximately once a month, except in the summer.
- b) The Provost will be invited to attend the next meeting. It was suggested that we invite the Deans and the Department Chairs to a future meeting. A summary of previous meetings will be provided to Council members before each meeting.
- c) Someone from the Admissions and Registrar's office will be invited to Council in the next few months.

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon.