

Minutes of the International Studies Advisory Group

10 am Meeting, February 23, 2011
Academic Affairs Conference Room, Swarts Hall,
University of Pittsburgh at Bradford

Informal "Brown Bag Luncheon"

Attendance: Kristin Asinger, Diana Beaver, Gillian Boyce, Isabelle Champlin, Carys Evans-Corrales, Marietta Frank, Martie Geiger-Ho, Fumio Kobayashi, Rick Nelson, Holly Spittler.

Regrets from Jill Ballard, Lisa Fiorentino, Kong Ho, Sooh-Rhee Rhu, Don Ulin,

Announcements

*The minutes of the last meeting, of November, are available on the International Studies website page. <http://www.upb.pitt.edu/issa/faculty.html>

*There is a new ESL teacher in town, a retiree Nancy Dryden, who might be able to teach or tutor. Her name and email have been given to Dean Hardin, Gillian Boyce, Gary Tessmer, and Ron Binder.

* Darwin Day and the Cultural Festival successfully took place last month.

* The winners of the travel awards to Japan are Nyssa Brumagin, Daniel Maldonado, Brian Roberts, Megan Truman, and Katie Zapel. There were 12 applications. Kristin Asinger, as the new Director of International Studies will go as the faculty member.

* The winners of the Vira Heinz scholarships were originally four, but one student declined. The three remaining are Stephanie Makin (Peru), Elizabeth Tillman (Costa Rica), Rebecca Zipay (Jordan). There will be the usual luncheon presentation by last summer's winners during Women's History Month, on March 23, at 11:30.

* The Asian Studies Certificate that was passed last year by our EPC, has still not yet gone to PACUP.

*The new NCTA (National Consortium for Teaching about Asia) campus coordinators are Kong Ho and Martie Geiger-Ho. This program of instruction for area IU9 teachers is run by the Asian Studies Center on the main campus.

*It was announced that Dr. Morio Arimoto would be coming from Japan to participate in the Cultural Festival (and in the Maya archaeology Spring Break trip). A small reception will be given for him, as a returning visiting professor.

Discussions

*The idea for a UPB Cherry Blossom Festival in April (an Asian festival) has been proposed by Anthropology Club. This is a rollover from last year's attempt to travel to Washington, DC for the Cherry Blossom festival there.

*The idea for a campus foreign film festival was also brought up. Carys Evans-Corrales said that she would explore the possibility.

*A proposed Arabic language course was not approved in a Social/Behavioral Sciences division meeting because there was no specific faculty member or

textbook. Also, that students were currently going to St. Bona's for Arabic instruction was thought adequate. There is a student interest in Arabic, and this "Introduction to Arabic Language and Culture" course could be reassessed.

*Champlin requested that there be more contact from more faculty/staff members to interact with our visiting professors. Perhaps we should have a "hospitality" subcommittee?

*Martie Geiger-Ho requested information about the criteria for selecting faculty to go to YCC for a semester. She wondered why some faculty were chosen ahead of others. Champlin explained that there was a form to submit to Dean Hardin, available on the International Studies website, and faculty should put down the year that they were able to go. It is not a "first come, first served" process. Some faculty who applied early have indicated that they are unable to go until 2013 or even later. She also requested that faculty conduct themselves professionally while abroad.

*Rick Nelson described his continuing involvement with Heilbronn University. He will be teaching a hybrid on-line course to students in Germany beginning in March and then go to Germany in May to teach in class on their campus. Dean Hardin will also be going to Heilbronn in May. Four of their students will come to UPB in the fall once again. Rick requested help with welcoming the new batch of German students, as he and others will probably not be able to give them as much attention as the first group. It was suggested that a bus excursion to Pittsburgh be planned for all foreign students and visiting professors, to see the main campus.

*It is imperative that we send some of our students to Heilbronn University. Please encourage your students to consider the possibility.

*Champlin announced that there is a new Strategic Initiative for Study Abroad, to establish an endowment for grant money for students. This was written by Julie Dykstra and will be promoted by Dean Hardin.

Notes made by Isabelle Champlin, Director of International Studies