

MINUTES of the International Studies Advisory Group meeting,  
Friday, Nov. 19, 2010, at noon in  
Academic Affairs Conference Room, Swarts Hall.

In attendance: Kristian Asinger, Jill Ballard, Isabelle Champlin, Mary Coller, Claudine Cooper, Gillian Boyce, Steve Hardin, Martie Geiger-Ho, Kong Ho, Betsy Matz. Regrets from: Don Ulin.

Items discussed:

\*Minutes from the last meeting (Sept. 28, 2010) were briefly reviewed.

\*Kristin Asinger was introduced as the new interim International Studies director, who will replace Isabelle Champlin when she retires on May 1.

\*Gillian Boyce gave a new update about ESL courses. She reports that there is a 3-pronged program to assist international students with their English, beyond the special English Composition II course. First, they obtain tutoring in the ASC, working with trained tutors. Second, they get coached in a practicum. Third, they created an International Studies English Support Group, which meets every week with coaches and students. She needs more UPB students to volunteer to continue to interact with these international students. Suggestions were to contact student clubs like Anthropology Club, and students in courses like Flora Wei's 'Chinese Language and Culture' course.

\*New ideas for Arabic language instruction were discussed. Isabelle Champlin explained how a 2-credit Independent Studies course utilizing Rosetta Stone instruction could operate. Betsy Matz thought that her ROTC and veteran students would prefer a 3-credit course. Champlin also proposed a new International Studies course, modeled after the 'Japanese Language and Culture' and the 'Chinese Culture and Language' courses, and passed out a draft form. It was decided that this should be developed into a course proposal and submitted to division and EPC early next semester, so it could be included as a course offering for next fall.

\*Kong Ho recommended that we consider Fulbright visiting scholars and graduate student assistants to teach courses like the Arabic one, and other international ones.

\*The Asian Studies Certificate of 2009 has not yet been submitted to Oakland.

\*Study Abroad Trips were updated:

A) There are 11 people signed up for the Maya Archaeology Spring Break trip for March 5-12. At least 4 students will be applying for travel awards, including the additional travel awards from Kong Ho and Martie Geiger-Ho. There is more information about this trip on the Archaeology Minor website [http://www.upb.pitt.edu/rightFeature.aspx?menu\\_id=26&id=20586](http://www.upb.pitt.edu/rightFeature.aspx?menu_id=26&id=20586)

B) The dates for the two week trip to Japan have been changed to May 9-24, 2011. Please encourage interested students to apply for a generous Travel Award.

C) There were no new updates for Dr. Thomas' European History Club Trip to Spain in May to 2011.

Notes taken by Isabelle Champlin, Director of International Studies