

International Education and Services Committee
May 15, 2007

Daryl Thomas, Claudio De Soller, John Rector, Michele Price, Ann Bliss, David Hargreaves, Karen Haberman, Denvy Saxowsky, Emily Plec (visiting) Doug Smith, Darrin Divers, Neng Yang

Several of the committee members announced that they must leave within half an hour to one hour after the start of this meeting, so it was agreed to begin with priority topics and to move as quickly as possible.

David Hargreaves wished to discuss the formation of a subcommittee of the IESC to address certain academic needs of the international students. He had already made a request to the Faculty Senate and was told to make his request here.

Neng explained he already formed the International Student Support Committee; he has already talked to the president and has asked several faculty. Also has formed the COE graduate student writing course and made some ESL changes. He wants input from faculty and students and if the faculty wants to show support then attend international student's events.

David explained the purpose of the Ad Hoc working committee is to improve communication between the faculty and International Students Office: Including:

- Feedback between faculty and ESL
- Content classes
- Academic support services to ESL
- Improve communication between divisions

Other comments included that many departments are involved, the faculty senate is involved, and the writing center students are not trained to work with international students, there needs to be more communication between divisions, the writing center and administration.

Neng claimed that there is a 135 writing course, he's never seen a school that needed special infrastructure, the faculty does have opportunity to communicate so why form a new committee?

Much discussion followed: English department has a writing class but is not specialized to work with ESL; there is expertise among the faculty to contribute; concern the students are not getting served; maybe some of the students are having personal problems and this does not reflect an academic problem.

Decision: as per Neng's request the new committee will be called International Student Support Committee. It will have an academic focus; interested faculty will contact Daryl Thomas, Chair of the IESC, to request to be on the committee; if too many faculty wish to join there may be a selection process. Also: this committee will have minutes and report to IESC, there may not be any budget impact, there will be one or two representatives from the IESC, the IESC will be the conduit to the Faculty Senate. After this decision was made many of the committee had to leave for prior appointments.

Morelia: Michele brought to our attention that a Spanish course WOU students participated in, through NCSA, only offered 10 credits instead of 12 credits (equivalent to 1 year of Spanish). Other sites can earn 12 credits and we have the option to grant our students 12, depending on how we count the hours. A 50 minute class (including passing time) over the quarter translates to 100 hours, a 60 minute class translates to 120 hours. The latter is how WOU counts its credits for our class time. Cheryl and Claudio and John agreed to assist in reviewing this in order to change it to a higher number if appropriate.

The NCSA scholarship for \$500 this year only has one applicant. Cheryl and Claudio will review this application.

The Feevale subcommittee will make its final decision before the end of term. There are better ways to spend our limited funds.

Meeting adjourned at 5PM.