

Council on International Studies and Programs

Minutes of Meeting

October 8, 2014

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes—David M. Engel

Professor Engel welcomed Council members back for the new academic year, noting that CISP would be taking up two priorities from the previous year—the curricular changes subsumed under the new General Education proposal and the institutional challenge to integrate and support international students more effectively.

The minutes of the April 2014 meeting were approved as distributed.

II. Update on the Proposed New General Education Program—Andrew Stott

Professor Engel invited Professor Andrew Stott, Dean of Undergraduate Education, to brief the Council on the current status of the proposed new General Education Program, which is now before the Faculty Senate for review. Professor Stott reprised the process initiated in 2009 to reform and update General Education—a process given renewed impetus by the Realizing UB 2020 plan and a new General Education committee convened by the Provost 18 months ago. One of the salient features of the new proposal developed since then is a strong focus on global learning and diversity. Referring to a handout summarizing the components of the new program, Professor Stott highlighted key design features such as the focus on self-directed, integrative student learning; shared intellectual experiences without waivers and exemptions; and a strong liberal arts core. The Global/Diversity Integrative Cluster represents nine credits of the forty-credit program and comprises three different tracks aimed at satisfying several SUNY General Education Requirements (GERs): a course cluster track, typically of three courses; the Language Track consisting of at least nine credits of a single foreign language; and the International Experience Track, fulfilled through study abroad, or a combination of study abroad and campus-based course work. All variants of the Global and Diversity Cluster must meet the stipulated learning outcomes for the cluster and satisfy appropriate SUNY GERs. The Integrative Capstone for the program, completed using an e-portfolio, allows students to better integrate the components of the program and comprehend the “big picture” of their learning in General Education by the end of their junior year.

Professor Stott noted that the presentation of the program to the Faculty Senate on October 7 by members of the Steering Committee generally went well. A good case was made for the need to reform the existing program and thereby better serve the needs of our students. Student opinion surveys reflect a lack of both understanding and appreciation for the current program, which is typically viewed as a laundry list of requirements to be gotten through—not an integral part of a UB education. The prevalence of waivers and exemptions means that what students are required to do in General Education can vary from as few as 15 credits to as many as 48 credits. Only 16 percent of students complete the entire program. Addressing these issues, the new program does more with less credit (40), and thus allows all UB students to participate in the same program and a shared intellectual experience. One of the ways students in programs with heavy credit loads can fulfill the new program requirements is by taking courses that fulfill Gen Ed and major requirements, so long as the relevant Gen Ed learning outcomes are satisfied.

Dean Stott noted that two-thirds of AAU member institutions, including Stony Brook, have revised their General Education programs since 2009, the year UB launched its own reform effort. The reforms have similarly focused on high-impact educational practices, greater student agency in learning, and global and diversity learning opportunities. It's clear that the current program does not utilize resources effectively; while the new program will entail additional resources, largely defrayed by the Provost's commitment of \$3 million annually in new funding, the result will be more "bang for the buck." The investment will create a marquee program that benefits faculty as well as students. Moreover, the new program is expected to add faculty resources, not reduce them; additional ladder, adjunct and teaching assistant hires will be made as a result of the new program. If the program is approved, an implementation plan would be developed allowing units to propose curricular changes to suit the new program. The Provost has committed to hold units harmless during the first two years of implementation to address negative enrollment and/or resource impacts resulting from the new program. Current modeling of the new program does not suggest that it will cause major disruptions, though a critical consideration is the extent to which units respond to the opportunities afforded by the new program. The proposal provides a workable curricular structure that needs to be fleshed out in the implementation phase.

Professor Engel noted that CISP had an important role with respect to the Global Integrative Cluster and provision for a significant international experience. Members were involved in various working groups as well as the Steering Committee for the current proposal. Dean Stott thanked the Council for its contribution to developing the program, noting that the Global Cluster will involve a much a larger percentage of students in global and diversity learning than the current program. The three tracks of the cluster—campus-based courses, foreign language, and study abroad—afford a wealth of opportunities for students and faculty. The foreign language departments have also have a vital role in shaping the proposed program and are looking forward to taking advantage of these new opportunities. Professor Christian Flaugh pointed out that faculty in the language programs recognize the problems with the current program and the ways students can benefit from the new model. Professor Othman Shibly said that the clusters allow for interesting cross-disciplinary offerings such as peace and war studies. Professor Patrick McDevitt asked how the new program would be administered. Dean Stott said that there would be an administrative budget to allow the Office of General Education to oversee the program. One of the drawbacks of the current program is the lack of appropriate central oversight and quality assurance. In addition, the new program will have faculty oversight committees for each of the new components of the program to address learning outcomes and assessment, among other issues. In the past program oversight in Gen Ed has been largely the responsibility of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Professor McDevitt asked how much lead time would be needed to carry out the implementation. Dean Stott said that various processes, such as that for curricular changes and course approvals, would need to be streamlined to ready the program for a fall 2016 rollout. Professor Claude Welch inquired about the effect on faculty resources. Dean Stott said that there would be a net increase in FTE, including nine in the ladder faculty ranks, along with an effort to decrease dependence on traditional adjuncts, with more focus on clinical faculty and teaching assistants. The category "Clinical Teaching Fellows" will offer enhanced professional opportunities and job security for the incumbents. Whether this category of faculty could be tenured or granted permanent appointment is not for the General Education committee to determine. Professor Shaun Irlam asked about how the

new program can prevent the erosion of requirements through later allowances of exemptions and waivers. How does the program retain its integrity as a shared intellectual experience long-term? Dean Stott said that there will be wide consultation with the advisement community at UB to ensure consistent application of the requirements. UB will continue to honor AP and transfer credit where applicable. Faculty oversight committees and appropriate assessment protocols will help maintain the quality of the program. However, it is not expected the program will remain static; improvements will be made over time as experience advises, so long as these are subject to proper oversight and quality control.

Dr. Lorraine Oak asked if the program will continue to be called “General Education.” Dean Stott said that a new name is preferred and that perhaps a student naming competition would be organized, as was done with HUB. Marketing and promotion of the program would benefit from effective nomenclature. Professor John Stone asked whether the original notion of the Significant International Experience (SIE), as it pertains to graduate students would be retained. Professor Engel said that the SIE for graduate students would need to be a separate requirement and program; the experience with the new General Education program would inform how UB proceeded with a graduate requirement. Dean Stott thanked the Council for their questions and input.

Professor Welch moved that a resolution be introduced according to which the Council would endorse the proposed new General Education Program, and that the resolution be presented to the Faculty Senate for its consideration. Professor Peter Biehl recommended that the resolution include provision that the anticipated growth in study abroad through General Education be supported with additional resources, particularly for study abroad scholarships. Professor Dunnett said that he welcomed the proposed resolution and sees the new program as an immense step forward. He thanked Professor Biehl for his efforts in working with Sean Sullivan and Resource Committee to address the resource issues involved in the new program. Professor Ho suggested that instead of endorsing the Global Cluster component alone (since CISP has not been involved in the other components of the program), the Council could endorse the general principles of the new program. After discussion, the resolution was introduced as follows: “That the Council on International Studies and Programs endorses the principles set forth in the General Education Steering Committee report, including provision for additional resources to support the program, and urges its acceptance and implementation by the faculty and the relevant administrative bodies.” A vote was taken and the motion to approve the resolution was passed unanimously.

III. Task Force on Integration of International Students as an Institution-wide Mandate

Professor Engel said that Provost Zukoski had asked the Council to look at the issues relating to the integration of international students as a university-wide challenge, and to develop an action plan for addressing this challenge. The Provost would like the Council to convene a university-wide task force drawing upon Council members and other colleagues with relevant expertise to investigate the issues, identify best practices and make recommendations for how UB should meet the integration challenge. Members are requested to consider participating on the new task force and to recommend colleagues who might contribute to its work.

IV. Report from the Vice Provost—Stephen C. Dunnett

Professor Dunnett reported on the UB delegation's participation in the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the launch of UB's undergraduate programs at SIM during the commencement there in July 2014. As of the new contract with SIM this year, the programs have brought in \$50 million in revenue to UB. The recent Middle States site visit resulted in a very good report on UB's offshore programs, particularly those in Singapore. SIM has itself received the highest rating from the quality assurance agency of the Singapore Ministry of Education. Professor Dunnett also reported on recent visits by three partner institutions—Capital Normal University, Beijing University of Technology, and Riga Technical University.

Steven Shaw, Director of International Admissions, reported on the fall international enrollment. The freshman target of 325 was achieved; however, the transfer number (149) continues a downward trend due largely to enhanced retention at other institutions. Overall, there are currently 1,868 international undergraduates enrolled this fall. On the graduate side, there was a decrease in new international graduate students this fall, though the number of continuing graduate students is up significantly. The total of 3,127 international graduate students could decrease substantially next year due to the enrollment bubble caused by the exceptionally large number of new international graduate students last fall. Interestingly, among the top ten sending countries are Malaysia, Turkey and Iran. Despite this, UB is overly reliant on China and India, which together account for 63 percent of international enrollment at UB.

Ellen Dussourd, Director of International Student and Scholar Services, reported on the International Student Orientations conducted in August. This year for the first time there were separate orientation programs for international graduate and undergraduate students. This approach became necessary due to the growth in the numbers of new students enrolling each fall. The two programs were streamlined and customized for their respective constituents. For example, the undergraduate program involved new activities that welcomed them to UB and afforded them opportunities to mingle with domestic students. The process of revising the orientation programs will be ongoing, and it is anticipated that more programming will be delivered online in advance of the campus orientations.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Wood
Secretary

COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND PROGRAMS

Attendance at the Meeting, October 8, 2014

Present:	Dr. Peter Biehl	Anthropology
	Mr. Oscar A. Budde (ex officio)	Immigration Services
	Dr. Barbara B. Bunker	Psychology
	Dr. Yu-Ping Chang	Nursing
	Ms. Kathy L. Curtis	English Language Institute
	Dr. Stephen C. Dunnett (ex officio)	International Education
	Ms. Ellen Dussourd (ex officio)	Intl. Student and Scholar Services
	Dr. David Engel, Chair	Law
	Dr. Christian Flaugh	Romance Languages and Literatures
	Dr. Daniel Hess	Architecture and Planning
	Dr. John T. Ho	Physics
	Dr. Junhao Hong	Communication
	Ms. Maria S. Horne	Theatre and Dance
	Dr. Shaun Irlam	Comparative Literature
	Dr. Wooksoo Kim	Social Work
	Mr. Wei Loon Leong	Alumni Relations
	Dr. Patrick McDevitt	History
	Dr. H. Lorraine Oak	College of Arts and Sciences
	Ms. Mary Odrzywolski (ex officio)	Study Abroad
	Dr. Mulchand Patel	Biochemistry
	Dr. Jessie P.H. Poon	Geography
	Mr. Joseph Schneider	Law School
	Dr. Surajit Sen	Physics
	Mr. Steven L. Shaw (ex officio)	International Admissions
	Dr. Othman Shibly	Dental Medicine
	Dr. Natalie Simpson	Management
	Dr. John H. Stone	Public Health and Health Professions
	Dr. Claude E. Welch	Political Science
	Ms. Margaret Wells	University Libraries
	Mr. John J. Wood, Secretary	International Education
	Dr. Jiyuan Yu	Philosophy
Guests:	Dr. Andrew Stott	Undergraduate Education
Excused:	Dr. Stella Batalama	Electrical Engineering
	Mr. Dennis Black	Student Affairs
	Dr. Janina Brutt-Griffler	Learning and Instruction
	Dr. José F. Buscaglia	Caribbean Studies
	Dr. Colleen Culleton	Romance Languages and Literatures
	Dr. David Fertig	Linguistics
	Mr. Joseph J. Hindrawan (ex officio)	International Education
	Dr. Donald McGuire	Undergraduate Education
	Dr. Pavani Ram	Epidemiology and Environmental Health
	Dr. Lillian Williams	African American Studies