University of Cincinnati
All-University Committee on International Affairs (IC)

Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 13, 2008

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
6154 One Edwards (Annie Laws)

Present:
I was never given an attendance sheet for this meeting

Absent:

I. Call to Order
Mitch Leventhal

II. Introductions

III. There weren’t minutes from the previous meeting

IV. ELS Language Center at UC
Teri Laliberte

Several new ELS Language Centers have opened both domestically and internationally, including sites in Istanbul and Shanghai. The University of Cincinnati was recently added as one of the more than 50 sites in the U.S. to have an ELS Language Center.

Students come with varying levels of English and can select from two different tracks: Intensive and Semi-Intensive. There are 12 levels in the Intensive English Program from beginners to masters. These levels are aimed at preparing students to study in the U.S.. The Semi-Intensive Program is for those students that would like to have more free time to explore the city they are studying in. ELS Language Centers do not work on the same calendar as the host university. Instead they run 4-week sections for each level of instruction. At level 12 they take the MLSAT, which is comparable to the TOEFL. Over 500 institutions accept ELS’s level 12 instead of TOEFL. Universities trust ELS because it prepares international students for study in the U.S. classroom prior to entering the university.

In addition, ELS helps students apply to American universities through their University Placement Service. This service provides students with application assistance along with advising, and through ELS they are able to obtain a conditional letter of acceptance from a university. The conditional letter of acceptance can aid in the visa process. These letters state that the student has what it takes to compete in the program, but may not have the English proficiency needed.

David Edelman added that departments cannot hold on to financial aid while students are here studying English and therefore students would have to pay for themselves.
Teri responded, saying that most students don’t expect to receive any type of financial aid.

Mitch Leventhal said the program is 30 hours a week, which is a substantial amount of instruction and is perfect for those students just a little rusty.

Medicine (I don’t know the rep. from Med. Name – LAURA HILDRETH????), believes this would be a very good option for many incoming medical students.

V. International Enrollment Report Ron Cushing

There has been a slight but strategic decrease in international student enrollment at the graduate level, while there has been a substantial increase at the undergraduate level with 97 students (97 UG? New students?) total at UC.

VI. 2+2 and 2+3 Undergraduate Articulations Mitch Leventhal

New agreements are being created on the basis of 2+2 articulations. These agreements create a relationship with an international partner, wherein students would do the first two years of their degree in their home country before completing the last two at the University of Cincinnati. UC is currently experimenting with this type of program at Beijing Jiaotong University and Sun Yat-Sen University. With these programs, and in general, UC is looking to accept more transfer students. An articulation task force will be created in the near future.

Dennis O’Neill asked what the university is doing to ensure that partner institution’s classes are equivalent to our programs.

Mitch responded that the universities we are pairing with are in the top 10-20 universities based on home country statistics. (How about curricular content is examined by UC before completing agreement????)

VII. International Freshman Orientation Sarah Leggesse

The University of Cincinnati runs freshman orientations every summer from late June to mid-August. There are roughly 300 students attending these orientations per day. For students unable to attend during that time frame there is a September orientation (during the first week of classes??). The Summer Orientation Office also organizes convocation, which is the kick-off for Welcome Week, but no international students attend.

Summer Freshman Orientation includes both mandatory and social sessions, as does Welcome Week. Session topics include safety, Campus Services, and Resident Life. There are smaller orientations held quarterly. Testing is also done at the time of orientation, like the online English test.
UC International Services is creating a task force to centralize the orientation process for international students. This task force will include Sarah Leggesse and all other offices running separate orientations at UC.

VIII. Forum QUIP  
Kurt Olausen

During the 2008-09 academic year UC International Programs will be participating in the Quality Improvement Program for Education Abroad (QUIP) of the Forum on Education Abroad. In the words of the Forum:

- The goal of QUIP is to promote high standards of practice throughout the field of education abroad.
- QUIP consists of a guided self-study and peer review process, resulting in a comprehensive report and recommendations in the areas of program design, evaluation and assessment, marketing and promotion, student advising, and resources and operations.
- Unlike accreditation, QUIP supports an institution’s own quality assurance initiatives and can be easily adapted to organizations with different philosophies and infrastructures.
- QUIP is based on the Forum’s Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad, which were developed in consultation with many colleges and universities and third party providers. Hundreds of education abroad professionals have contributed to the Standards. ([http://www.forumea.org/standards-quip.cfm](http://www.forumea.org/standards-quip.cfm))

An objective outside review team will visit UC in late February or early March. This review team will also visit one of UC’s international program’s sites: E-Media’s LMU Summer Campus.

Mitch added that UC was one of the first institutions to participate in the Forum’s pilot review program. This evaluation identified many of the university’s strengths and weaknesses.

IX. Adequately Funding UC International Programs  
Mitch Leventhal

There have been several proposals on the table to have UC International Programs’ budget scaled to the department’s workload. The main proposal (to institute a fee) was strongly opposed by RWC, CCM, and CoB. A fee is realistically the only way to have an adequate budget that scales to the number of students going abroad. Anyone with other suggestions should contact Mitch Leventhal.

X. Subcommittee Reports

- International Services Subcommittee  
Ron Cushing

Programs to guide international students in the career search, whether they are seeking a job in their home country or the U.S. have been put into place.
• International Programs Subcommittee  Kurt Olausen
There are several new programs including Clermont study abroad programs to Chile and Mexico. Honors is leading programs to India and Russia. The subcommittee spent much of its time sharing best practices information.

• International Recruiting & Marketing Subcommittee  Mitch Leventhal
A marketing coalition is being created for the region. Representatives will be able to pull more students for a region if they represent a large body of institutions.

XII. Adjourn  Mitch Leventhal