Meeting Minutes IC Committee Meeting June 8, 2009

Ron Cushing

Task force committee is expecting the arrival of new students for Fall; this quarter they will be using night walk vans to meet students at airport, they are finalizing the details this week with student government. Volunteer recruitment is underway for undergrad admissions students that are interested in several days of arrival activities geared towards international undergraduate students.

Airport pickup funding - gas is covered by grad students governance assoc., SG use of night walk vans. During peak periods UC international will rent 15 additional passenger vans over a 3 week time period, 85% of international students are depend on that transportation. We do not know the percentage of students arriving beyond 10pm, but a majority of students arrive in between 3pm and 9pm. As far as short-term housing, they are awaiting a response for the proposal for additional funding, a representative in the housing office is working to help those who need off campus housing, and we are neither approved nor denied. If approved, there is funding to make sure students have at least 2 nights of free stay, there is assistant for

Proposal requires – graduate and family housing task force submitted recommendations to the president, needs her approval, Neville knows about the proposal it has not been confused with other proposals.

Kurt Olausen

Updates from people on our subcommittee on programs are as follows; most summer programs have fallen apart, as we try to get out of the economic downturn. Peer review comes Monday and Tuesday, no one got enrollment, most programs that were thrown out did not meet the student attendance requirements.

Director of programs in Central America- We had enough students to make one group, stragglers were also picked up, there are 6 programs offered in this region, two of which are functional. CCM, COB, and A&S are also functioning.

LUCA a theatre group is going to Spilteo to try and move the festival there. LUCA needs a sponsor, but moving to Spilteo helps because they will have the infrastructure, transport, spacing, equipment, and lodging. We plan on running the program again next year if at all possible. How many student go? 120 students attend the festival, but if we move to Spilteo we’ll have more students. There are internships for theatre students at the festival, advanced singers in the fall, and experimental theatre for musicians, students must audition for the internships. We’ve picked up a lot of Co-op students on external programs, but not enough to accommodate the need. Statistically, we are down from 900 to 120, 50 percent of students that attend are UC students; there is a 7 to 8 percent decrease in enrollment this year.
The China program fell apart, Costa Rica (1 applicant) was not successful because of astronomical airfare. The British study abroad program cut their cost to $2,000, the original airfare prices were cut to $500 and they cut one of their programs. Mostly, people do not sign up because of astronomical airline ticket prices.

**Vicki – Clermont College**

New programs at Clermont include; paralegals going to Mexico, the establishment of foreign language departments in Spain.

**Africa – Mitch**

There are ongoing activities in Africa, but there is no coordination between UC faculty and programs that have operations there, we have had two meetings with variable success. The biggest challenge is how do we leverage all of the activities from nursing to medicine, to engineering?

**Kurt Olausen and Jill Winograd – Reporting on trip to South Africa**

CEA – customized program, there was 1 applicant for their program and they switched one student over from their program to the UC program. Currently we have a Faculty member from Nelson Mandela University and a Faculty from UC Clermont in South Africa.

We could be more effective on bidding for development projects, we have Swahili at UC, how can we bring in historians, linguists, sociologists, humanities, social sciences, all participating in grant writing exercises?

Collaborated with CIEE, visited other programs and organizations. We see a growing need to learn more about Africa, CIEE, a 60 year old program is the leading provider of study abroad, with 114 programs, in 50 countries all over the world. CIEE is the leading program provider in Africa, 7 African countries. There are 15 Study abroad advisors in South Africa, all three universities/institutions have resident directors, on site staff that can help students adjust.

University of Capetown – The president of the university has experience. He’s dealt with tragedies; the university has the capacity to support safety. There is a diverse course selection; CIEE sponsors offer a competitive service learning program and 15 students are admitted each semester, mostly honors students. The students undertake independent research projects related to the area where they choose to do community service, mostly poorer areas with poor schools. A large city could be overwhelming for some students, but I felt safe during the day, not so much at night, need a lot of preparation for Africa in pre-departure orientation, Stellenbosch university is located in wine country, it is a Dutch settlement, college town, and offers a larger amount of courses in English, easier to integrate with local students.

University of Botswana, huge contrast to South Africa, Botswana doesn’t have the coast or appeal that South Africa has, homogenous, friendly environment, everything is conducted in
English, extremely safe, local language courses. The University of Botswana has a College of Business, humanities, architecture, design, Business, public health (highest HIV rates in term of African countries), local governments give free HIV treatment to locals, need a lot of research before choosing a destination, a lot of advising help, educate ourselves a lot more about the cultural differences between countries,

**Port Elizabeth- Jill Reister**

UC program MNU is located in Port Elizabeth. Summer program will work out great. The staff takes care of our students. I am hesitant because of the amount of work that we had to do on the ground to prepare the program to start receiving students. Aside from culture is the cost a factor? 30 to 40 students expressed interest, 10 students planned to apply, 6 students confirmed, 2 dropped out, in the end we were down to 4. Students are nervous about going to Africa because of the lack of knowledge out there. The cost of program at Nelson Mandela University is $5500. The Connect 123 program charges $1200 for program fees and is providing internship experiences for up to 6 months, organizing any internship experience students are interested in, for students going to Africa for a much cheaper experience. (Connect 123) Hard to get a paid internship, but it is inexpensive, cheaper than UC for hands-on practical work experience.

**Kurt Olausen**

Elizabeth Brewer, Director of Int’l programs at Univ. of Alabama, peer reviewers coming for one day and a half. Visiting a program in Munich looking at operations on site there, look at one program; generalize how we manage programs in general

**Global Corporate Engagement**

**Bob Lees**

In touch with 300 closeted internationalist involved in international activities. Strong interest in the University of Cincinnati, Japan American Society, European Chamber of Commerce, getting offers for a “getting to know each other project, which includes the Alumni Association, in early stages convincing them that we are a solutions center. Needing more global HR locally, we have had a couple successes with engineering in bringing Chinese students to them. Clearly, fundraising is a main goal, but there are also opportunities to help companies.

**Live well Collaborative** – This program spun out of DAAP, it is a not for profit that has a number of corporate members, commissions students related to creative problem solving for product development. These are all incubator projects which are designed to get the university on board.

**Ron Cushing**
On boarding- Effective July 1 2009 UC is changing the process by which new staff can begin working at the university. You cannot work until you attend an orientation with HR, student, staff or faculty. All I-9 forms are completed in Ron’s office, any staff person must have checked in with our office prior to going to orientation. Employment delayed by at least a week if you do not follow the process, faculty or students cannot get a paycheck until I-9 is completed and they have gone through collections.

**Any impact on visiting scholars?** If they are going to be a staff person, if they are being paid, then the rules apply. If unpaid, then they are rolled into the paid category, but they should not be in a lab until they have checked in with Ron’s office prior to officially beginning their collaborative activity.

Many international students scramble to find employment in the summer– anyone currently on the payroll is not affected, only newly employed students. All I-9’s completed by Ron’s office

**Terri Laliberte**

ELS Center, system wide shrinkages, UC continues to grow, currently have 78 students, report here of the different countries, largest groups from Saudi and China. 82% of our students are academically bound, 57 are undergrad and 43 are grad students. We have 50 centers around the country, why is this destination out performing others; not a heavy reliance on S. Korean affected by global recession, UC has the broadest range of programs, approved university for several scholarship programs

Do S. Koreans come for English skills or are they academically bound? They are a “mixed bag.” S. Koreans are looking for universities here, not necessarily English language skills. Studying English is an easy access opportunity for experience abroad. Other programs in which students enroll, CLA’s government sponsored students need them to continue studying, as well as getting the Visas.

Students pursue a variety of programs; Pre-pharmacy, CCM, Political Science, Engineering, Business. Grad programs the top two are MBA and Engineering (M Eng program not MS) Taiwanese, Chinese, and Saudis have conditional letter of acceptance. Currently we have 23 new students, 30 applicants. Next session another 30 on the list with a high percentage from Saudi Arabia we think 20 will show. At the end of summer we’ll have 100. We have transferred 5 students to the University of Cincinnati, 4 to Clermont, all accept 1 have been undergraduate students. ELS Center at UC is the largest intensive English program in Southwest Ohio.

There is a plan to converting Sanders dining hall rooms to ELS classrooms, we might grow to 120 students instead of 80 as a result of the space increase. Seeing a lot more walk-in students in terms of connecting the university to the community, corporate connection, Coboto HR executive is coming to observe, housing is an issue for the students, currently we are not using university housing that will change in September, and we’ll have at least 8 beds in Stratford.
International students see safety as an issue, we’ve lost 20 fully sponsored students to safety issues, we expect to see more students matriculate to UC, and main goal is to retain them.

No place to congregate in between classes, they’ll begin to go to the student center, trip to Kings Island,

**Ron Cushing**

ISB – 13 Ohio schools participated. Against 13 Ohio schools we scored well in a few areas.

In safety, the University of Cincinnati is ranked last.

Time of offer we are 10 out of 13. In accommodation quality we are ranked 12/13. ISB tells a story. Our housing rank is an issue because of the closing of graduate housing and the time of offer is a delayed process because of the way our graduate schools reviews applications.

**Perception of Safety**

We are low on ISB amongst international students. Had the students personally experienced a crime? Did they know someone who had? Less than half were petty crimes, victims of violent crimes were not asked. We have lost 20 students from Saudi Arabia because of safety perceptions and they have complained to the Embassy in D.C.

Major Ed’s office, Gene Ferrar, District Chief- Prepared a presentation for th Saudi visitor which helped to calm him down a lot.

We are not doing well on property crime, we do well in violent crime. Violent crimes are happening off campus, at night. Saudis are living in McMillan Manor and enjoy the amenities, the downside is the desertion. The area lacks lighting and there are very few places to walk.

30 percent of crimes are happening within a half mile of the university, all crimes are reported in a timely manner. Every violent crime within a half mile is reported instantaneously, multiple times. Arrests reports are made, false reports are often made; repetitive emails are creating a perception. We should be conscious not paranoid. One solution to helping with the misperception of safety is inviting uniformed officers (not armed) to the classrooms, uniting students with Arab professors that live and work in the area. The city cops and UC cops have a fully integrated communication system. 3CDC Program is collaborating with the university, especially Mary Stegeman community engagement initiative Agenda 360.

The historic pattern of crime in Clifton has been reduced. The public safety unit is speaking at housing receptions, broadcasts a filmed public safety speech, revisit the presentation at every event. Additional safety methods include fire alarms, blue lights, everything is addressed in the film. In the future we should be more selective about who does the communicating, so that cops do not worsen the situation.

New Business
There is no meeting until September. Monday morning works well for the majority, no change there.