ISAC Minutes

A meeting of the International Studies Advisory Council was held on Tuesday February 25, 2009 at 3:30 in Copeland Hall 103.

Present: Amy German, Barbara Amundson, Ann Marie Park, Steve Amundson, Susan Honeyman, Will Aviles, Diana Jones, Suzanne Maughan, Frank Tenkorang, Glenn Powell, Sonja Kropp, Tone Mendoza.

The new representative from the Library, Tone Mendoza, was introduced and welcomed to the ISAC.

Lilly reported to the Council on her attendance at the International Studies Association Conference in NYC earlier in the month. Although the conference is primarily academic in nature, it did include one panel and one meeting that were extremely helpful in providing information relating to the administration of INTS programs. Lilly gathered and shared with the Council information relating to administrative issues, working with other departments and faculty, curriculum, advising, recruitment, student’s professional development and assessment. There is some movement toward the creation of a common website and listerv in the future that should provide even more help. Overall, however, it was encouraging to see that our movements in the direction of curricular change seem to be in line with those being recommended more broadly across the nation.

On the basis of that information and the previous month’s discussion Lilly had created a sample curriculum based on two potential themes and area studies, pulling together the existing courses in the UNK catalog. The Council discussed these samples at some length along with several ideas for an INTS capstone course. There followed also some discussion of timing with the conclusion that the Council would like to submit Program changes in the Fall 2009 to be implemented by Fall 2010. Lilly agreed to send the plans out to all members for their more lengthy perusal. After receiving that feedback the Council agreed that the following steps would need to be taken (not necessarily in this order).

1) Lilly will need to write up a “strategic plan” for curriculum development summarizing the work and conclusions of the ISAC thus far.
2) The Registrar will need to be consulted regarding the proposal.
3) All relevant Dept Chairs will need to be consulted to see what courses are still being offered and to keep them informed of potential changes to the curriculum.
4) We will need to decide on our plan for a capstone course. This decision may depend in part on how the GS capstone course develops.

Maughan informed that Council that out of the 31 alumni survey’s sent out, only 6 were returned and some of those were incomplete. In the future, the Council agreed to make an exit survey part of the capstone course.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday March 24 at 3:30 and once again in the History Dept Conference Room in Copeland Hall.