ISAC Minutes

A meeting of the International Studies Advisory Council was held on Tuesday Sept 22, 2009 at 3:30 in the Sisler Room. Present: Amy German, Barbara Amundson, Ann Marie Park, Steve Amundson, Will Aviles, Suzanne Maughan, Frank Tenkorang, Glenn Powell, Sonja Kropp, Diana Jones. Absent: Tone Mendoza, Susan Honeyman,

Lilly began by addressing budget issues for the year. She noted that she had agreed to co-sponsor to upcoming speakers with the Women’s Studies Program—Paula Rieder who will be coming Oct 15 and will be speaking on an issue relating to feminism in Medieval Europe and a woman from the Afghan Studies center in Omaha who is now scheduled to come November 5. In addition, the advisory council agreed in principle to the idea of using its carry over funds from last year and carrying over money from this year to help fund student travel for its first capstone course in the spring of 2011. There was some concern about where exactly our carry over money from last year is since it has not yet appeared in our budget—Lilly promised to stay on top of the question. Powell also urged Lilly to be sure and discuss any long term budget plans with VC Bicak so it does not appear that we are simply not spending our money since there have been some past cases of unspent money being repossessed.

The Council then discussed at some length two complex issues-1)the foreign language requirement for the minor program and 2) the idea of a comprehensive major for our program. No solution was reached on the former, but on the latter the council agreed to table the idea for the time being given the current instability of the GS program. It might be something we will want to revisit later under more stable circumstances but for now the timing is not fortuitous.

The Council then looked more closely at the program for the INTS major. One outstanding issue was the position of Art history courses which are desirable within the Cultural theme but problematic since they are lower division and have many prerequisites. After much discussion, the council agreed to include lower division courses within the electives but require a certain number of upper division hours. As for the prerequisite issue, the Council decided that was up to students to resolve if they chose those electives.

Finally the Council worked on finalizing plans for the Capstone course. Aviles agreed to prepare his syllabus for next summer’s course to Columbia as a sample syllabus for the Capstone. Then the Council worked on the Learning Outcomes. See attached the list of Outcomes agreed upon at the meeting, as well as the catalog description for the course.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50. The next meeting of the ISAC will be October 27 at 3:30. Location to be determined—although the Sisler room seemed to work out well!