



## **International Strategy Advisory Group**

### **Minutes**

**Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**9:00 am – 11:00 am**

**University Hall Room 211**

#### Attendees:

Peter Mascher, Chair  
Andrea Baumann  
Mary Williams  
Gary Warner

Y. Rachel Zhou  
Bonny Ibhawoh  
Kalai Saravanamuttu  
Susan Searls Giroux

Allison Sekuler  
Lehana Thabane  
Antoine Deza  
Isik Zeytinoglu

Joanne Squires, committee secretary

#### Regrets:

Sean Van Koughnett

#### AGENDA

1. Welcome – Peter Mascher
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting #2 (January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015)
4. Business Arising from Minutes and Open Actions
  - a. Items that arise, as needed
  - b. Open Actions
5. AVP IA Briefing:
  - Current International Initiatives
  - Open Actions
6. Topics to be raised by members
  - Strategic Internationalization Plan 2020 – Memorial University (original e-mail attached) – Andrea Baumann and Gary Warner
  - Student Exchange Opportunities in Global Public/Social Policy – R. Zhou
  - Other Topics
7. International Initiatives Micro Fund (IIMF)
8. Establishment of an International Research Investment Fund (IRIF)
9. Review of the McMaster Policy on Human Rights and International Activities:  
<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/General/HR/Human%20rights%20and%20international%20activities.pdf>

10. Review of the “Procedures for Offering Admission to International Students on Faculty-based Contracts”:  
<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/AdminAcad/AcadAdmin/InternatlStudentsAdmissionFacultyBasedContracts.pdf>
11. Other Business
12. Next meeting: Wednesday June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – 1:00-4:00, GH 212B
13. Adjournment

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- Two new members were introduced to the committee which now includes representatives from all Faculties
  - Antoine Deza, Professor, Computing and Software (Faculty of Engineering)
  - Isik Zeytinoglu, Professor, DeGroot School of Business

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

- Add item to topics to be raised by members – General inquiry from Asian school re: a master's program
- Agenda then adopted with this revision

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING #2 (JANUARY 28, 2015)**

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES AND OPEN ACTIONS**

- Action 1.2: Student Mobility-Undergraduate document:
  - A template is still being worked on and will be shared at the June meeting for acceptance. The existing template will be circulated for members to critique/change in time for the next meeting in June.
- Action 1.4: International Compendium:
  - The existing template will be circulated for member feedback. This would help participants include their activities if an easy form for reporting existed and with hopes of creating a new Compendium by the end of 2015. Further discussion on details to be added to the June agenda.
- Action 1.5: International Electives:
  - Action item closed, as there is currently no such policy in place which outlines where students can and cannot travel.
  - A recommendation could be made to have such a document created or the students can use the Foreign Country Travel Advisory List from the government of Canada website.
- Action 1.7: CBIE Report: Action item closed, no feedback was received.
- Action 1.8: Action item closed, CBIE added to International Affairs website.
- Action 2.1: Co-tutelle: Document development is ongoing.
- Action 2.2: IIMF: Action item closed. First round of funding is sold out. Excellent response.
- Action 2.3: Policy on Human Rights & International Activities: PM and GW will review and edit the document to be presented at the next meeting in June.
- Action 2.4: Policy on the Procedures for Offering Admission to International Students on Faculty-based Contracts: Select members will meet to review and edit the document to be presented at the next meeting in June.

## AVP IA BRIEFING

### CURRENT INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

- PM spent a week in Uganda to meet Jean Chamberlain, who runs an initiative called “Save the Mothers” which is based at Uganda Christian University. This initiative aims at creating an environment in rural Uganda where mothers can use local hospitals in a safe and sanitary manner in order to deliver their children as a way to reduce maternal and infant death rates. This initiative helps recognize that there are very basic needs, i.e. clean running water, electricity running for long periods of time, not necessarily hi-tech installations or massive investments. PM traveled to a few hospitals who work with and without “Save the Mothers” and there is a noticeable difference between the two.

It could be a great idea for McMaster students from all Faculties to become involved with this program as it tries to expand its initiative to other East African states, Rwanda, Kenya, and Tanzania. It touches on Science, Health, Engineering, Economics, many projects which would be a direct benefit to “Save the Mothers”.

Jean Chamberlain’s vision is to also include a strong academic component where students can learn about the local environment and how health care can be delivered within such an environment coupled with the expansion of the “Save the Mothers” campaign. There are many factors to consider, economic, sociological, etc. A document has been drafted by Jean Chamberlain for consideration by Uganda Christian University, not specific to McMaster yet, but for consideration as they determine if they will undertake this initiative.

McMaster needs to consider or decide what our involvement would or should look like. Do we want to create an academic partnership? In what capacity does McMaster become involved with the required resources? Points to consider:

1. UCU would not be an equal for an academic research intensive partnership, it needs to be viewed as a different approach for partnership
  2. Ties into the water research initiative which is current University priority
  3. Could involve all Faculties if pursued properly
  4. McMaster is under-represented in Africa – McMaster could make a strategic mark if handled properly
  5. Should a focus group be created separate from ISAG that would include persons of expertise in Africa, helping with implementation, have specific research expertise and regional interest
- **ACTION ITEM:** PM to ask Jean Chamberlain for a presentation to the group to gain better understanding of the context of all factors involved
  - **ACTION ITEM:** PM and AS to discuss whom to invite to form the focus group

### TOPICS TO BE RAISED BY MEMBERS

#### STUDENT EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES IN GLOBAL PUBLIC/SOCIAL POLICY

- A member was contacted by an Asian school regarding a master’s program which would run 1 or 2 weeks or a semester and would welcome an agreement. It was noted that this falls into the International Research Initiative fund but it requires getting the Faculty Dean on board and then International Affairs will match the amount. The AVP of Graduate Studies should be contacted for any issues related to masters or PhD programs.

#### STRATEGIC INTERNATIONAL PLAN 2020

- Item was tabled for discussion at next meeting in June

## OTHER BUSINESS

- University Advancement update:
  - Public Relations Manager has been working with PM on the Micro fund and Compendium

## **REINSTATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES MICRO FUND (IIMF)**

- The first round of the IIMF is sold out. A list of funded projects was distributed.
- PM has already submitted the request for renewal funding for the 2015/2016 year.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INVESTMENT FUND (IRIF)**

- The IRIF funding for this year has been received and a request has been submitted for renewal of funds for 2015/2016.
- A call for proposals will be communicated through the Daily News. Proposals will need to be more elaborate and detailed.

## NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – 1:00-4:00, GH 212B

## ADJOURNMENT