



International Strategy Advisory Group

DRAFT Minutes

January 28, 2015

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Gilmour Hall Room 212/B

Attendees:

Peter Mascher, Chair
Andrea Baumann
Mary Williams
Gary Warner

Y. Rachel Zhou
Bonny Ibhawoh
Kalai Saravanamuttu

Sean Van Koughnett
Allison Sekuler
Lehana Thabane

Joanne Squires, committee secretary

Regrets:

Susan Searls Giroux

AGENDA

1. Welcome – Peter Mascher
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting #1 (October 2, 2014)
4. Business Arising from Minutes and Open Actions
 - a. Items that arise, as needed
 - b. Open Actions
5. AVP IA Briefing:
 - Current International Initiatives
 - Presentation to Senate
 - OIA Web Site Update
 - Official Release of International Compendium – <http://dailynews.mcmaster.ca/article/new-compendium-provides-sapshot-of-macs-global-activities/>
 - Canada's Education Abroad Lexicon – <http://www.cbie-bcei.ca/canadas-education-abroad-lexicon/>
6. Topics to be raised by members
 - Student Exchange Opportunities in Global Public/Social Policy – R. Zhou
 - Co-tutelle FQA – A. Sekuler
 - 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. CBIE and AUCC Reports on Internationalization
<http://www.cbie-bcei.ca/news/cbie-launches-status-report-on-nations-performance-in-international-education/>
<http://www.aucc.ca/media-room/news-and-commentary/providing-students-global-skills-top-reason-internationalization-universities-survey/>
12. Other Business
13. Next meeting: Tuesday, April 7th, 2015
14. Adjournment

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Peter Mascher (PM) welcomed the committee members and noted that as we progress through the year, the group will continue to be more instrumental in shaping the international agenda for the University. All parties re-introduced themselves.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- PM would like to create a structured profile containing:
 - Each agenda will have re-occurring key items along with any items which might arise
 - A draft agenda which is circulated prior to next meeting to allow for additions or modifications. Once accepted at the current meeting, it would be considered the final agenda
 - A member thanked PM for the communications distributed between quarterly meetings, finds them helpful and informative

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING #1 (OCTOBER 2, 2014)

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES AND OPEN ACTIONS

- Action 1.1: Future Meeting Dates: Complete
- Action 1.2: Edu-Canada Education Fair Brazil: The analysis has been postponed until next meeting. Currently being looked at by OIA staff. Software incompatibilities caused the delay. In summary there was a large interest in the MBA program and more particularly in the co-op MBA program; PM met with Len Waverman to discuss and there is interest, however the issue would be the weak English skills of the students, which would need to be factored into any decisions. It may end up tying into the new English as a Second Language program coming out of Humanities. However, this is currently not setup to accommodate such a large group of students.
- Action 1.3: Student Mobility-Stats: Patrick Deane had shared some university statistics on international registrations. McMaster is currently in the bottom half of Universities in regard to international undergraduate enrolment, equating to roughly 7-8% of the total enrolment. While neither good nor bad, it's dependent on what the overall strategy is. Good to discuss the topic just to discover everyone's thoughts on the point versus a need to 'fix' or 'change' anything.
 - The question was raised regarding the different types of international enrollments, and PM describes that there are two such groups,
 1. High school students coming as international students to study the full term of the undergraduate program, fully paid fees
 2. The students who are here on an exchange or mobility program which is typically a much smaller number.
 - It was discussed how international enrolment is a complex topic and where a specific number is intended to be met and how to go about attaining that number. Many other institutions have created 'small armies' to address this situation, however, McMaster has chosen not to. Need to question the 'return' on these 'armies'. While McMaster is recruiting 7-8% of international students, it's being done with a minimum amount of effort.
 - PM commented that McMaster is virtually full with regard to enrolment and if it's an issue that we rank that low. It may mean targeting specific areas to capture enrolment, however, that may mean the displacement of Canadian students by taking more international students.

- It was mentioned by a member that when Patrick Deane provided the numbers, he thinks the group needs to decide what is desirable and if we want to move to a more diverse enrolment in specific Faculties and how this compares to other universities.
 - It was also mentioned how if we think about increasing the number of international students, it may mean that it's not necessarily across all faculties. In addition to thinking about how many numbers involved, there is some structural issues at McMaster which would need to be ironed out before moving forward with any agenda.
- Action 1.4: Student Mobility-Undergraduate document:
 - OIA staff has been revising the information material for potential international undergraduate students. OIA is planning to distribute the material in order to address upfront some of the more typical questions international students may have when considering McMaster as their university of choice.
 - A member made the observation that if the document came in various languages that would be very effective as it's typically the parents of the international student reading the literature and they often don't have English skills. It was also suggested that the document should contain information on how international students could get support to enhance their English skills.
 - Action 1.5: International Compendium:
 - This document was described as being based on self-reporting information and that it is difficult to differentiate between research and international activity reporting. The compendium is kept generic to capture a lot of information, but can be refined. Primarily it is currently used as background information for visiting delegations and for reporting to the government. The goal is to create a new edition every two years.
 - It was asked if creating a template to decrease the barrier for participation might be helpful. This would help participants include their activities if an easy form for reporting existed.
 - Action 1.10: International Electives:
 - A formal document does not seem to exist which governs policy on international electives.
 - A member mentioned that Health Sciences has been working on a faculty based document and is about 50% complete, suspected completion date is end of March.
 - It was communicated that any document requiring appropriate signatures be brought to the graduate studies group as well for approval.

AVP IA BRIEFING

CURRENT INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

- PM provided a presentation to Senate January 14th. He was pleased with the engagement of individuals with good questions and discussion, which was the objective to make Senate members aware of ISAG activities.
- Participation in an Ontario Science and Technology Mission to China led by the Premier of Ontario. Resulted in two new multi-party agreements with two different universities and industry. Working on partnerships in the general area of sensor development for water and air quality. Hopes to develop a presence at McMaster Innovation Park (MIP) to enable technology transfer, not just McMaster to China but also Chinese start-up companies to have a foothold at MIP.
- Participation in a delegation of the Council of Ontario Universities to Turkey. Met with representatives of approximately 15 universities. Not much time for detailed discussions, however made contact with high level representatives. Turkish university system broken into two groups, the publicly funded schools with

longevity and the separate, privately funded universities created in the 1980's by wealthy business people. Most of these are narrowly focused small schools, but there are a few that are big and important with which McMaster might be interested in partnering. Social Sciences and the Business School are very interested in some of these schools. It's a file which requires a lot more work.

- Participation in a delegation of the U15 to Israel in December based on an official invitation by the Israeli government to visit their top universities. There is a strong history between McMaster and certain Israeli Universities and McMaster is well known. There is significant interest in collaboration in the areas of neurosciences and Nano technologies. Hebrew University has a very broad range of strengths in social sciences, neuro sciences, and Nano technology and we will look at developing these partnerships. Some universities have groups specifically setup for support, e.g. the Canadian Friends of Hebrew U, who raise funds for student exchange programs. Working with Paul Grossman on putting together a package for scholarships or travel grants, as a strong starting point.
 - A member wondered if we had any existing exchange agreements with any of these universities.
 - PM confirmed we did have an agreement with Hebrew University in Jerusalem, which was renewed in December 2014 for five years. A second, much broader framework agreement for research collaborations was also signed, as was an MOU with Technion

OIA WEB SITE UPDATE

- A new revamped International Affairs website was published. Feedback from the ISAG is welcome.
- All ISAG members agreed on publishing the meeting minutes under the ISAG bullet heading. Sensitive information may be omitted.
- AB - site looks good but graduate studies needs to be integrated for students to be linked to the right areas

INTERNATIONAL COMPENDIUM

- The Compendium was released in December 2014 and an article written in the Daily News about it.
- Work to begin on next release. Next steps will be discussed and shared at the next meeting.
- The document is also intended to help with recruitment and connectedness with anyone requiring a reference piece. A suggestion was made for creating an ongoing, online submission system.

CBIE REPORT

- CBIE published a link which provides definitions of certain terms that one would come across when dealing with internationalization. There is an opportunity to review the document and provide feedback.
- It was mentioned that Patrick Deane had assumed the Chair of CBIE, which could create a conflict with CALDO and wondered if there was any feedback on this. It was communicated that McMaster still was not a member of CALDO (which, since Waterloo and Western joined, is now called CALDO+), and that there didn't seem to be much added value to being part of this organization. CALDO needs to be self-sustaining and therefore, membership would cost money, about \$10,000/year. Opinions on this are welcome and the file will be periodically reviewed. A question to consider is if CALDO was able to attract greater numbers of students (i.e., from Brazil) versus the number McMaster attracts by itself. Also, the perception/reputation of CALDO with our international partners may indicate whether the group is gaining acceptance.

TOPICS TO BE RAISED BY MEMBERS

CO-TUTELLE

- A co-tutelle is the French term for “Joint Enrolment”. This refers to a two-sided doctoral enrolment and exchange agreement between two universities (the home university and the partner university) in different countries. With this setup, a PhD student enrolls in the program in order to complete all of the requirements of the program in both the home and partner university. Students would complete their thesis research collaboratively and for roughly equal amounts of time in both universities, although the student wouldn’t be in the host country for longer than two years. They are supervised by a faculty member from each of the universities. The caveat is the costs involved in us taking international students and paying their stipends. This bodes well for McMaster students as well since they would not need to pay any additional fees to the partnering university and they would end up with two degrees, one from each university.
- A member mentioned that Graduate Studies and OIA have a co-tutelle policy; however, after Peter’s presentation to Senate it was clear that most people didn’t know such a policy existed and what a co-tutelle was. AS will be working to put together a FAQ sheet which will explain the definition and address common questions.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Members heard that Erica Balch was helping to disseminate international information.
- IT was also mentioned how we can use the university’s alumni to assist with strategic initiatives and the international strategy to unfold. Several examples of these are:
 - Advancement has organized 9 international alumni events in Hong Kong, England, Dubai, United States, etc.
 - Patrick Deane will host graduate students when traveling
 - Started using a ‘Connect to MAC’ series which they are testing
 - Also testing Online Mentoring and Fundraising opportunities. They are using a new tool called ‘Brazen Tourist’. These are outreach opportunities where alumni hear what is happening at McMaster and are able to push that out to the international alumni forum (strategic people, researchers, graduates, etc.)
 - Have a lot of alumni interested in helping with recruitment issues and challenges. They can help spread the McMaster word and there will also be opportunities for helping with international priorities
- There are about 5 potential donor groups on the fundraising side, which PM is assisting. Advancement is just starting discussions on international excellence with these donors and while it is a small amount of money it helps to build partnerships/relationships.
- The group was notified of the establishment of the ‘Rankings Analysis Advisory Committee’, which also speaks to the international reputation of McMaster. The group looks at a whole range of analysis of institutional ranking reputational pieces.
- PM informed the group that he had setup meetings with all the Deans to determine how we can support their Faculties international plans. PM is also engaging with the respective Dean’s or Faculty Councils.

REINSTATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES MICRO FUND (IIMF)

- The IIMF has been reinstated with funding assured for the 2014/15 academic year. It is expected that approximately 10 projects can be funded.
- PM has already had meetings with proponents of two projects:
 - Skype meeting with Ann Fudge Schormans, planning to establish an international research network for developing space for intimate citizenship for disabled people.
 - A meeting with Elizabeth Weretylnik (Chemistry and Chemical Biology) who had been invited to attend a conference in Israel as the only Canadian speaker on the topic of Surviving Extremes – Plants that thrive in the desert and the artic.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INVESTMENT FUND (IRIF)

PM announced that funding has been committed to establish the International Research Investment Fund (IRIF). IRIF will support interdisciplinary, multi-Faculty projects up to \$50K and will require tangible investment from the participating Faculties. An example is a recently submitted joint proposal under the leadership of Norm Archer from the School of Business with strong involvement of Health Sciences and Engineering on Improving Maternal and Child Health in Nigeria and Kenya. Norm brought to the table a company that contributed 100K, with an additional 50K from the Faculty of Engineering and 50K from the OIA if the project is successful.

REVIEW OF THE MCMMASTER POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- A second document, “Procedures for Offering Admission to International Students on Faculty-based Contracts” was last updated January 2007 and will be reviewed and edited.
- PM noted this topic still needs to be reviewed and a commitment to finish it off needs to be made by the next meeting in April. He requested that everyone look at the two documents and send feedback.

NEXT MEETING

- Tuesday April 7th, 2015

ADJOURNMENT