



International Strategy Advisory Group

Minutes

Wednesday June 24th, 2015

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Gilmour Hall Room 212/B

Attendees:

Peter Mascher, Chair
Mary Williams
Sean Van Koughnett

Bonny Ibhawoh
Kalai Saravanamuttu

Antoine Deza
Y. Rachel Zhou

Joanne Squires, committee secretary

By invitation:

Patrick Deane, President and Vice-Chancellor

Jean Chamberlain, Associate Professor, Ob/Gyn and Executive Director — Save the Mothers

Regrets:

Andrea Baumann
Susan Searls Giroux
Allison Sekuler
Lehana Thabane
Gary Warner
Isik Zeytinoglu

AGENDA

1. Welcome – Peter Mascher
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting #3 (April 7th, 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
6. Topics to be raised by Members
 - Strategic Internationalization Plan 2020 – Memorial University – Andrea Baumann and Gary Warner – Tabled to next meeting

- “More than half of international students have no Canadian friends” (e-mail dated June 5th) - Allison Sekuler – Tabled to next meeting
- Other Topics

7. “Save the Mothers” – Presentation by Jean Chamberlain

8. “Africa Desk”

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/InternationalStudentsAdmissionFacultyBasedContracts.pdf>

11. Other Business

12. Next meeting: Wednesday October 7, 2015 – 1:00 pm

13. Adjournment

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Members were welcomed

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- Agenda adopted without any revisions

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING #3 (APRIL 7, 2015)

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES AND OPEN ACTIONS

- Action 1.9: “Africa Desk”:
 - Significant interest has been shown in the establishment of an “Africa Desk”
 - Request for nominations of potential members
- Action 1.8: Save the Mothers:
 - Dr. Jean Chamberlain is present at the meeting to make a presentation
- Action 1.7: Policy on Procedures for Offering Admission to International Students on Faculty-based Contracts:
 - The School of Graduate Studies is taking the lead on rewriting this policy. It will be presented to the ISAG once complete.
- Action 1.6: Policy on Human Rights & International Activities:
 - PM and GW reviewed the document and will make the recommendation to remove this policy. A more detailed presentation to the group will be forwarded by the next meeting.
- Action 1.5: Co-tutelle FAQ: Document development is ongoing by the School of Graduate Studies. Will be presented to ISAG for review.
- Action 1.4: CALDO: There isn’t much activity with the group and it won’t be pressed. Action item closed.
- Action 1.3: Questionnaire still being worked on to capture a more complete picture of international activities for the next issue of the International Compendium

AVP IA BRIEFING

CURRENT INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

- PM received an invitation to represent McMaster at a round table hosted by the Governor General in Chicago. When the Governor General travels he often puts together round tables which are education focused with various select universities, from Illinois and Wisconsin for this particular discussion. Four Canadian universities were represented, McMaster, Toronto, McGill and Dalhousie
- Several outcomes and observations:
 - Both on US and Canadian side, when thinking ‘International’, it is assumed far off countries are the focus, i.e. India and China. Rarely do the US and Canada universities think about developing partnerships with each other.
 - It was agreed that greater attention should be paid to our neighbours
 - For McMaster in particular, this means reconnecting with the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee to share resources and knowledge regarding our water initiative, in particular fresh water research.
 - Organization of a joint workshop with Milwaukee in the fall is being planned with our resident water experts to take part, specifically Dustin Garrick, to find common interests.
 - The second University where there are several contact points is the University of Chicago. One of the areas for collaboration would be in the area of an initiative started by the University of Chicago called “Urban Labs”. These “Labs” have 4-5 focus areas including crime, public health, environment, etc. The overarching theme for these labs is how can a research intensive University contribute to positively affecting these areas, and how can research better connect and engage with the people. PM has met with the Faculty of Social Sciences to provide all the information.
- PM hosted a delegation of the Association of Brazilian State and Municipal Universities The universities in this organization educate over 700k students and they are interested in our problem based learning capabilities, specifically within Health Sciences. From a research standpoint the lead university from this group is Sao Paulo State University. There is demand at the smaller universities for capacity building. An opportunity exists for McMaster to bring junior faculty members here to train in our environment or our Faculty members going there and organizing workshops and courses. This will continue to be pursued.
- PM had a meeting with Professor Lena Ruiz-Azuara (UNAM – National Autonomous University of Mexico). She would like to establish an MOU, a co-tutelle, the prospect of obtaining a joint degree from both Faculties.

TOPICS TO BE RAISED BY MEMBERS

- Strategic Internationalization Plan 2020 – Memorial University – Andrea Baumann and Gary Warner – Tabled to next meeting
- “More than half of international students have no Canadian friends” (e-mail dated June 5th) - Allison Sekuler – Tabled to next meeting

“SAVE THE MOTHERS” - PRESENTATION BY DR. JEAN CHAMBERLAIN

- “Save the Mothers” presentation was given by Dr. Jean Chamberlain who hopes to create a formal partnership between McMaster and Uganda Christian University to help develop this initiative. The presentation and documentation were sent to all members after the meeting for reference.
- During the discussion the following questions/concerns were raised :
 - If this initiative is also open to non-Christians (Yes).
 - Establishment of an academic institute to be partnered with the program is critical. This would enable research projects and the development of proposals that can be submitted by the academics.
 - Dr. Chamberlain suggested that administrative staff may be required to focus on running and overseeing this initiative.
 - Dr. Deane felt that government funding may be more fundamental during an election time and that he and MW will help to create the verbiage.
 - PM raised the point that there needs to be a parallel commitment from Uganda Christian University.
 - BI has volunteered to assist and will speak with Dr. Chamberlain following the meeting about the process and action plans. He feels there is a requirement to have a Dean of the University to help champion this initiative.

“AFRICA DESK”

- The idea is to form a working group of people, who have experience or background in African affairs, therefore when opportunities arise they can be acted on quickly.
- BI has agreed to be part of the group
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Members to put forward any recommendations of anyone that might be interested in being part of the working group.

Review of the McMaster Policy on Human Rights and International Activities:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/General/HR/Human%20rights%20and%20international%20activities.pdf>

- Tabled until next meeting

Review of the “Procedures for Offering Admission to International Students on Faculty-based Contracts”:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/AdminAcad/AcadAdmin/InternatlStudentsAdmissionFacultyBasedContracts.pdf>

- Tabled until next meeting

OTHER BUSINESS

- None

NEXT MEETING

- Monday November 30th, 2015 – 1:00-3:30, MUSC 220

ADJOURNMENT