

# The University of Louisiana at Monroe

## Minutes for the International Education Council

August 13, 2007

Members Present: E. Bledsoe, C. Clark, V. Hsia, M. Loeb (Chair), S. Nazzal,  
A. Richardson, M. Schmeer, T. Steckline, J. Wood

Members Absent: P. Newman, M. Perez

Members Excused: T. Kim, student members

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Mara Loeb on August 13, 2007 at 11:15 a.m. in Room 622 of the University Library.

Members introduced themselves and shared their position with the University.

Discussion was made to elect or appoint a secretary. Eric Bledsoe volunteered for the position until the end of the fall semester. A re-evaluation would be done for the spring semester.

Dr. Loeb informed the committee of the pre-semester events with new internationals. Dr. Loeb also asked if Kim Bledsoe, the wife of member Eric Bledsoe, would be allowed to sit in on meetings. There were no objections to this suggestion.

In an attempt to set a meeting schedule, Dr. Loeb had all members fill out a scheduling card. She agreed to contact absent members. A meeting time that fit most members would then be determined.

Mary Schmeer brought up the listing on the TOEFL website to bring attention to our University. Discussion led also to degree programs that involved internationals that would then have a website link. Also discussed were programs that had scholarships that do not exclude international applicants.

Dr. Loeb remarked upon the need for host families and suggested a newspaper article as one way to generate community support.

Members selected goals for the year from the list on the meeting agenda as each was suited or interested.

Selection was made as follows:

A. Richardson, M. Loeb, C. Clark

Goal 1: To gather information to aid in the effort to recruit and retain international students at ULM.

E. Bledsoe, J. Wood

Goal 4: To create a network of persons and agencies to advertise, organize and/or co-sponsor special events that will foster intercultural interaction and understanding.

T. Steckline, S. Nazzal

Goal 5: To compile a directory of faculty members with experience living abroad and foreign language proficiency, and of interested international students, with the goal of creating an Intercultural Speakers bureau.

V. Hsia, S. Nazzal

Goal 6: To investigate establishing relationships with universities in other countries with the goal of increasing international student enrollment and offering domestic faculty and students opportunities to study and/or teach abroad.

Dr. Steckline brought up the subject of the accomplishments of internationals and how they add so much value to our University by their excellence and achievements. She stated that a list needs to be compiled showing these contributions and achievements. Also, a list of leaders of organizations who are international students would be beneficial in presenting a case for additional support to the University leadership.

An invitation was extended to all members to the welcome events for internationals. Mentioned were gift baskets, meals and a grill-out/picnic which were listed on a flyer. Dr. Loeb mentioned that she would email the flyer.

The next meeting time was not set; Dr. Loeb would contact members via email when the information came available.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Bledsoe

Secretary, International Education Council

Submitted: September 10, 2007