

International Education Council
Minutes from the September 8, 2008 Meeting in 160 Student Center

Members present: Beutner, Bledsoe, Bontty Garza, Hsia, Preston, Loeb, Nazzal, Schmeer and Krey.

Members excused: Jones, Steckline and Wood.

Dr. Loeb called the meeting to order at 12:00.

Loeb announced that Pam Newman had to resign from the council but will still try to participate in our projects. If anyone has a suggestion for whom to replace her, please advise Dr. Loeb.

Bontty was chosen as secretary.

Nina Krey was introduced as a student member of the council and Loeb requested other student nominations for the 3 remaining student seats. Beutner said he would contact a student he knew (Saswati) about membership. Loeb said she would approach the new International Student Association officers for a volunteer.

Dr. Loeb called for an approval of the 8/11/08 minutes. Beutner moved to approve. All were in favor.

Members were asked to select one of the IEC Goals to pursue for the year, no more than 2 members per goal. The goals and the selections were as follows:

1. To gather information to aid in the effort to recruit and retain international students at ULM. **Jones, Nazzal**
2. To establish and promote an information base for materials related to international education and travel opportunities. **Beutner**
3. To investigate funding possibilities in the form of grants and/or a reduction of application charges for international students. In addition, to research funding possibilities for an international transcript evaluator to be employed by ULM on a part-time basis. **Garza**
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. **E. Bledsoe**
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. **K Bledsoe, Hsia**
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. **Loeb, Schmeer**

Krey and Bontty expressed that they had no preference for a specific goal so Loeb suggested she assign them a goal after the excused members indicated their preferences. (note: goals 2, 3, & 4 still need adoption.)

Beutner asked about the existence of an International Education Council website and suggested he could develop one as a part of his sponsorship of goal 2. Loeb suggested the information she and Schmeer generate in goal 6 can be added to the website.

Loeb mentioned there are four scholarships that international students can apply for. Krey says she got one.

E. Bledsoe suggested linking the International Education Council to Education Abroad. Loeb discussed involving the Diversity Council.

Garza will take on goal three. A major concern is the fee for the transcript evaluation. It ranges from \$80-\$125 just to apply to ULM. Loeb suggested he research other universities and see how ULM compares. Krey mentioned the ULM maintained list of peer universities as a starting point.

Loeb will send out an email requesting information on memberships in organizations such as the Lion's or Rotary in order to generate a list of liaisons and volunteers for goal four. Schmeer suggested contacting Laura Harris.

Loeb related how a local French speaking group made contact with French students at ULM and had a dinner with them.

Nazzal asked if the council can work together with the soccer team and Kim Bledsoe suggested a special event with the soccer team might be a possibility. Beutner said we could tie this in with an international grill with different foods and hand out t-shirts. He recommended the area across the street from the Library. Loeb said we need to look at the space.

Nazzal will contact Echols regarding goal one. He also added that increasing ULM's visibility is a priority. Loeb suggested getting different recruitment materials from various departments as well as finding out what scholarships are available.

Beutner suggested we make a video with students telling jokes in foreign languages as a promotional tool.

We moved on to a discussion of an event for International Education Week, including tables for each continent along with inviting school children. Krey suggested a Wednesday morning for this event. Bontty offered to write name in Egyptian glyphs and discussion generated many suggestions for interactive and educational elements. It was decided to further develop these ideas online after availability of the SUB Ballrooms was investigated. Loeb volunteered to make reservations and send the information on the day and location out on the day and location for the event when the minutes were sent.

Old business reiterated the need for conversation partners for international students, preferably in the same majors.

The next meeting will be on Thursday October 16, 2008 at 3:00 in room 160 Student Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55.