International Education Advisory Committee
Minutes/Meeting Notes for Monday, September 17, 2007

Present: Tom Blair, Karen Chan, Jill Heffron, Xue (Sue) Lian, Yi Liang, Louise Louie, Joanne Low, Natasha Maresca, Mikiko Matsumura, Lindy McKnight, Cynthia Obenchain, Leslie Pahl, Stan Rappaport (visitor), Gary Tom, Joan Vitorelo, Paul Wong, Michele Zimmerman

The meeting was commenced at 2:10 by the chair, Leslie Pahl.

1. The Chair welcomed everyone back to the new academic year. The mission statement of the IEAC was reviewed: “The IEAC recommends policies and discusses issues related to international education.”

2. Dean Joanne Low addressed an issue that has come up re: TOEFL requirement of 473 to enter the International Student academic program. She had been asked by an unnamed Board of Trustees member when this number had been set. The Board member cited another CCC that has a decisively lower number of 450 and, perhaps, a correspondingly higher number of international students (though this correlation was not established by any data.) The question to answer would be: can students admitted with this lower number succeed and transfer? Tom Blair suggested that Dean Low contact college archivist Chris Kox (Library Information Technology) to determine the genesis of this TOEFL score.

Paul Wong stated that there should be multiple measures to determine student success. The general consensus was that simply lowering the TOEFL placement score in order to recruit more international students (and fees) would not be in keeping with CCSF’s academic standards. A middle ground was found with the idea floated by International Student counseling, Institute, and Dean Low that the students entering the Institute with TOEFL scores between 450-475 also take our ESL placement test. Students with a placement score into ESL 150 or 140 might be accepted into the credit program and those with a lower score attend the Institute. This approach might attract more international students. Outcome of this issue: Dean Low will contact some members of the ISP to discuss the merits of administering the CCSF language placement test as a “pilot” test to students who place between 450-473 on TOEFL and gather some study data to present to the committee at its next meeting.

Dean Low also noted that the International Students Program will be part of a pilot project of the Communications Department to enhance its website. It was suggested that recruitment materials could be updated to include languages not already on web page.

3. Jill Heffron, Study Abroad coordinator, gave a program update. The winter break programs (12/26/07-1/11/08) will be: 1) Diego Rivera and the Muralists with Greg Landau (Latin American and Latino/a Studies, and 2) Cambodia, Laos, and Viet Nam with Chuong Chung (Asian
American Studies). Jill also reported that both the Florence and Paris programs each have 17 students. Going back to the past summer (07), the China-Mongolia program had 18 students enrolled, while Guatemala had 15 students. The Summer in Beijing intensive language program was a resounding success, especially given that it was the first time out for this program. Fourteen very diligent students participated and, with all of Beijing as their language classroom in addition to the rigorous language program at the Beijing University of Post and Telecommunications, brought their language skills up to the next level.

The Study Abroad program will also be looking for a "new" venue for a Spanish Language Program for 2008, as Guatemala and the PLFM had some issues for our students during 2007. (Jill Heffron’s note: Since the meeting, I have been informed that Study Abroad Programs and Sharyn Kuusisto and Ed Stering as representatives of the Spanish faculty have decided to offer a program in Oaxaca for summer 2008, but to avoid the Guelaguetza festival, which has been a problematic time of year for the last two summers.) Jill Heffron also noted scholarships currently available: the Gilman ($5,000 for students w/Pell grants) and the NSEP. Last year, only one student from a community college nation-wide was awarded this prestigious scholarship: a CCSF student, Tiffany Eng!

3. Paul Wong, International Student Counseling counselor, presented a program update and distributed a table showing the number of I-20’s issues vs. the number of new students enrolled during Fall/Spring from 2002-2007. For Fall 2007, 305 I-20’s were issued while 232 students eventually enrolled. Leslie Pahl asked what happens to those who don’t end up enrolling at CCSF. Answer: some defer for a short period of time (family, health, financial reasons), others may have applied to multiple colleges and go elsewhere. Sue Lian asked where the students come from who don’t end up enrolling. Answer: Japan and Indonesia (primarily.) Sue Lian noted that now seems to be a good time to recruit students from China as her sources say that it seems to be easier than in the past to obtain a visa.

4. Sue Lian, Foreign Language Department instructor (Mandarin), gave a very engaging report on the Summer in Beijing intensive language program which she supervised. The 4-week program was structured with classroom instruction from 8-12 daily (M-F), tutoring or clinic hours, and then in the afternoon and on weekends students were scheduled for various cultural experiences. As Sue noted, this was a very well-prepared group of students, committed to learning Chinese and immersing themselves in the culture and language surrounding them. A few of the students experienced a bit of “culture shock” where the living conditions were concerned; but while they were not quite on the level of what a typical American student would expect, they were clean and safe and the food quality in the cafeteria was good (there is a culinary program at the university), which is what the coordinator used as a measurement for acceptability. In fact, three of the students are already planning to go back this winter!
4. Louise Louie, coordinator of the Institute for International Students, gave a brief program update. She noted that enrollments in the Intensive English Program had increased, with 110 students enrolled in the 18-week program and 40 in the 9 week program. The students are primarily from Pacific –Rim countries: 14-15 from mainland China, 6-7 from Vietnam and the others from Korea, Japan, and Latin America. 140 I-20’s were issued and 110 students actually enrolled. Additionally, after last year’s attendance of 10 English language instructors from Kyoto, this year 17 English instructors from Guangdong province in China will be visiting for 30 days to learn about ESL methods at CCSF, in part observing classroom instruction.

5. Open forum: Mikiko Matsumura, Japanese instructor in the Foreign Language Department, announced that the Asian American Studies Department (among others) was hosting a “Focus on Vietnam” on 9/21/07, with the Vietnamese Consul General in attendance, reception to follow. She invited all the committee members to attend.

6. The Chair set the next meeting for Monday, November 26 at 2:00 in Cloud 229. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:25.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Leslie A. Pahl, Chair
October 1, 2007

(Note: the minutes have been circulated via e-mail to all committee members with a one-week comment period before being submitted in their final form.)