

Minutes from VIU International Activity Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: October 7th, 2009 -12:00 pm

Chair: David Robinson and Audrey Hansen

Present: David Robinson, Audrey Hansen, Linda McDonnell, Leslie Sundby, Dana Chamberlain, Ron Sandland, John Black

Opening Remarks:

Dave welcomed everyone and explained this is a relatively relaxed group/committee; the last meeting was in May.

Round table of Introductions:

David Robinson – Involved in the Heart of Gold Project. There are currently 2 students here visiting from Costa Rica. They are from rural farming families and are here on scholarship for 1 semester.

John Black – Involved in the Liberal Studies Field School

Leslie Sundby – Involved in the Nepal Nursing Field School, and separate development project in Guatemala

Ron Sandland – Involved in a future Education Field School to Belize

Dana Chamberlain – Study Abroad Chair for the Faculty of Management

Linda McDonnell – Involved in Early Childhood Education Project in Indonesia

Audrey Hansen – Education Abroad Manager

Audrey remarks that it is just a coincidence that the people at the meeting today are mostly involved in Field Schools as other members are involved in other international projects.

Business:

Purpose of Meeting: Dave hopes to delegate some tasks associated with AHED.

- There is some confusion over the role of this committee in light of the fact that the Dean of International Education Graham Pike has created another committee with the name “International Advisory Committee”.
- Graham’s committee is made up of one member from each faculty and is supposed to meet 4 times /year. There are a draft Terms of Reference which state the role of this committee is mostly advisory.
- The original purpose of the VIU IAAC was advisory but in light of the creation of Graham’s committee perhaps the focus needs to shift and be more specific – For example become just “Academics without Borders” or adopt a country, or just create a roster of individuals willing to volunteer on development projects internationally for the AHED database.

- The question arose of where Field Schools fit into this committee if it is to become “Academics without Borders”, is that under the umbrella of Graham’s committee?
- There have been instances where there have been many field schools proposed all in the same year. Because the field schools drew from the same body of students not all could run so there was a push for some kind of a committee that would vet field schools.
- This idea was not supported and instead the idea of a group that was available to promote awareness of field schools rather than a “clearance” committee for field schools was more popular.
- Two different areas were proposed with a different committee for each; one focused on field schools (faculty led group programs) and one focused on development work.
- Considering the people who are on Graham’s committee may not have field school experience it does not seem an appropriate committee to be acting on field schools.
- As clarification the TOR of Graham’s committee indicate it is an advisory committee rather than an action committee
- A preference for something more like a liaison or mentoring group to help other faculty get a field school off the ground was voiced. An informational group whose role would be more like how to get a field school off the ground rather than screen field schools.
- Audrey suggests two committees, A field school committee that meets twice a semester to look at specific topics like academic issues on field schools etc.
- It is suggested that there is a need for more interdisciplinary field schools to which there is general agreement. The Early Childhood/Indonesia and Ghana projects are good examples.
- There is concern about what parts of Graham’s committee will overlap. Again looking at the Terms of Reference of his committee their role is more to let everyone on campus know what different departments on campus are doing and for dept reps to be able to take that back and share with their colleagues.

Action: Audrey to discuss with Graham Pike the role of his committee and figure out where there might be crossover

Name Adoption

- How is this committee linked with AHED
- This Committee will have an advisory role to Graham’s Committee
- Choose the name “VIU Academics Without Borders”

Co-chairing committee Responsibilities

- So far this has been co-chaired by David and Audrey and they are happy to continue to do so and meet once a month to chat
- If people feel the need to meet let Dave know
- Dave will continue to send out the updates from AHED

VIU Academics without Borders Activities that need to be delegated

- A Memorandum of Understanding has been created and circulated to everyone. The purpose is for AHED to get as many MOU's as possible to help them get more funding.

Action: Audrey will take the MOU and get appropriate signatures and get it sent off to Stephen at AHED.

- AHED is currently building a roster of Academics (similar to how Dr's without Borders works) who are willing to volunteer if a certain project comes up. This is just an "interest" list with the person's name, "yes I'll go" and their area of interest/expertise.

Action: Linda McDonell will take on building this list of VIU Academics for AHED. It should include adjunct and retired faculty as well. She will work on it on own time frame with a goal of having something by early next semester

- Rick Bevis originally suggested the idea of Adopting a Country. The first suggestion was Belize. More work/discussion should be done on this activity.

Action: Idea to go back to Rick Bevis for more input/discussion

- Listserv – Audrey has a list of 40 people which should now be separated into a list of people who want to be in the VIU Academics without Borders group and the Field Schools group (and again include interested adjunct and retired faculty).
- The listerv is intended to share information that comes in to Audrey and Dave or others that other may be interested in but at this point Audrey and Dave may be unaware of.

Action: Audrey will send out a blurb asking people to let her know which list they want to be on and then have the listservs made up.

Internationalization Website:

- Audrey is looking for feedback on the internationalization website. There are some limitations as we do not have options on design. If people have suggestions on headings, organization, content and information that works well for them please let her know.
- It is suggested that the term "Internationalization" does not strike a chord with people. The headings that need to be used need to be clarified and be descriptive in a way that people can see effect them. For example International Opportunities – internationalization is too big a label for so many things
- It is suggested that for a website like this to be effective it has to be built from scratch using clear ideas of what it is for, who is using it, and what they are thinking when they go there.
- Perhaps another meeting where there is focus on the website is needed.

Action: Audrey to talk to Graham Pike about how critical the VIU website is in general and that the Academics without Borders Committee recommends that making the major improvements are needed.

Travel Reports:

- Be aware that the notice has just gone out for applications.
- There is a new webpage for Travel Grants which includes report of past recipients – where they went and what they did.

International Development Week

- The first week of February is going to be the first annual International Development week.
- This will involve a larger community event (hopefully a big name speaker), as well as faculty events (such as a roundtable discussion on how to get involved in development work/projects), student events, and other miscellaneous activities on the Nanaimo campus over the week that focus on International Development.
- Audrey will be sending out an e-mail looking for more people to be involved.