

TCC Global Learning Committee

Approved Minutes 26 January 2009, 3:00 p.m., VB Campus A-100E

Present: Tom Feist (Chair), Susan de Veer (Secretary) Jackie Spiker, Azam Tabrizi, Dr. Gabriela Toletti, Naaman Wood, Dr. Mike Bryan, Carol Hodges, Sarah Greene, Dr. Michael Summers (ex officio), Dr. Lonnie Schaffer (ex officio), Dr. Jeanne Natali (ex officio), Danielle McLemore

Guests: (**International Student Alliance** members) Youssef Hamami (President), Mariya Kvashenka, Helene Fernandez (Vice-President), Marouane Sadaq (Treasurer), Dariel Clark, Sherrie Turner (S.T.A.N.D.)

Absent: Dr. Geraldine Wright, Debbie Edson, Peter Shaw, Ken Spencer

Old Business

Review/Approve minutes from last meeting

The December minutes will be distributed electronically to the committee for comment and approval.

New Business

Introduction of Student Guests from the International Student Alliance

The student guests were invited to introduce themselves to the committee. **Dariel Clark** is studying music. **Mariya Kvashenka**, from Belarus, is a Science major who plans to transfer to ODU after graduation from TCC. Mariya stated that she decided to study in the U.S. to explore and to learn about American culture, commenting that her experience has opened eyes to look more globally at the world. **Helen Fernandez**, from Senegal and the Vice President of the ISA, is majoring in Business Administration. **Youssef Hamami**, from Morocco, is President of the ISA. He has been in U.S. for 3 years and is majoring in Engineering. He plans to complete a B.S. in Civil Engineering. **Marouanne Sadaq**, from Morocco and Treasurer of the ISA, also majors in Business Administration and plans to transfer to ODU or to a school out of state. **Sherrie Turner** is a Social Science major and a member of Phi Theta Kappa and S.T.A.N.D. She plans to transfer to Virginia Wesleyan after graduating from TCC.

Discussion with the International Student Alliance Guests

The Chair asked the students several questions related to global learning and to their club activities. The following in blue are a compilation of the students' responses.

Briefly describe what the ISA does, including its mission and activities and events.

The ISA formed to help students to learn about each other, to share our differences with other students, and to help students to not just overcome the fear of differences but to celebrate differences. The ISA members have participated in student activities, but this was first year we have participated in and planned activities for International Education Week. Among our IEW activities were Futsol games, a



Brazilian capoeira demonstration, a steel band performance, an event with the Philippine Cultural Association, and an international dinner and student fashion show. The ISA's main focus this year is to collaborate with S.T.A.N.D. (Students Taking Action Now Against Genocide) to offer a film festival and campus speakers on genocide. The ISA also would like to volunteer in area high schools to share our culture with students.

We understand your club held a film festival last year. Yes, the ISA showed films and we had guest speakers. Several TCC faculty participated in the festival to facilitate discussion about the films. The DIE- IN students acted out genocide and wore identifiable T-shirts. There was a large turnout for this event. S.T.A.N.D. and the ISA were selected for an award because of their participation and were interviewed by the Virginian- Pilot and Channel 3 news. The events are publicized college-wide, but the ISA needs committed students on other campuses to make events such as these successful. The former ISA president previously visited other campuses to generate interest in the club and its activities. The Chair indicated that the GLC may be able to assist students with publicizing the ISA events.

What does the concept of "global learning" mean to you? The world is getting smaller through travel and trade so that people will become more portable to work on the global level. The more you encounter different cultures and people, the more patient you become. It is important to learn to adapt while retaining one's own cultural values. Being aware of what is going on in the world enables you to speak out and improve the world.

What type of global learning experiences would you like to see in your curriculum, or offered extra-curricular?

- a. Would you participate in a learning community if one existed that integrated two or more courses in a program around a common theme of international interest? (The Chair explained what a Learning Community is to the students.) Learning communities sound exciting, but the affordability for the travel associated with the learning community for international students is prohibitive. The time constraints are also an issue for students. (Note: for the international students, study at TCC and in the U.S. is their extended study abroad experience.) Mariya explained that she participated in an exchange program in London, which was expensive but beneficial in strengthening her English language skills. Other students expressed a desire to participate in study abroad but found the costs challenging. Most scholarships through Pell are need based. The students suggested one way to market the study abroad programs is by offering films that highlight the target countries to develop student interest. The students suggested that more of an introduction to the country for the programs is needed.
- b. Think for a moment about the classes you are in right now, or that you've taken thus far. Can you think of a connection to globalization that maybe could have been made, but wasn't? One student commented that that history has two faces: the losing team and winning team. American history courses here provided a variety of perspectives on WWII. Early American history courses helped students to see the connections through various cultures that fostered exploration. Another student commented that he discovered the relationship between art and history. Math courses also provide an international perspective when faculty highlight the historical development of mathematic principles. The international students also noted that the process of solving mathematical problems is different in U.S. and other countries.
- c. What classes have you taken or expect to take that you would not expect to make an international connection? Students commented that there aren't any classes that aren't connected to the entire world; however, law classes would not be transferable from country to country.
- d. **Jefferson Café.** The chair explained the concept of the Jefferson Café, that it works like an international book club on an iPod. Students and staff can listen or read the book or topical articles and then meet to discuss them with staff and other students. Students and staff can also engage in discussions on international topics with faculty or guest speakers. These discussions would be offered at rotating campuses. The students agreed that the Jefferson Café is a good idea to introduce students to international issues. They commented that, given their busy lives and course assignments, students would probably not voluntarily sit down to read

a book. They would, however, be more amenable to something more visual, such as a film or video and also suggested that magazine articles would not entail such a time commitment. Youssef Hamami commented that the Linguistic Club met last year to discuss the content and style of books; however, the President of the club transferred at the end of the Spring semester and the club has not met this year.

How do you learn about the cultural, economic and political (government infrastructure) issues regarding the particular country you are studying? What sources do you use to find information about global trends or information? The students agreed that electronic media is the medium of today's students choice. They suggested that the TCC- TV's broadcast international news and commented that American students are not as interested in international news as are international students. The students also noted that other students are not aware of the clubs or opportunities that are available on campuses and felt that it's important to raise students' awareness and to offer opportunities for them to get involved in college activities. The ISA's objective is to raise students' awareness of global issues.

What skills do you think you will need to be competitive as an employee in a global world? What would a global perspective offer to you as an advantage? The students commented that school teaches you how to learn and that languages will be necessary in the workplace. They agreed that it will be necessary to learn more languages. If you can learn a language and the history that surrounds the language and culture, it will be more useful than just learning the words. When you learn about diversity, you become more diverse yourself. It's all about language. American companies are merging with European companies so language facility is important and will give you an advantage. It's important to be more respectful to people from other cultures.

Other Questions and Comments from the Committee to the Students:

Dr. Toletti commented that there is an opportunity for a story in the TCC Times about the ISA and International Students and asked if there is anything that we can do to advance your club? The students responded that they need to involve students from other campus and they need help to establish an ISA on other campuses, as well. They would also like to establish international education week activities as a TCC tradition and add IEW to the college-wide Student Activities. The student's are concerned that the ISA may fold as current officers and members graduate. The students would like to change their constitution to hold officer elections at the end of the academic year instead of the beginning of the year to establish continuity of officers. Currently, there are 70 students on the club roster; most are from Virginia Beach. Tuesday will be the first ISA general meeting at 12:30 on the Virginia Beach campus.

BIE Globalization seminar #2 recap (Terri Noll!)

The chair commented that the January BIE Globalization seminar at the ATC building was sensational, in particular the Terri Noll presentation on preparing students to be competitive in a global workforce. Committee members Sarah Greene, Carol Hodges, Pete Shaw and Naaman Wood participated in the seminar. Dr. Mike Bryan attended the webcast. Terri Noll's presentation is still available online for viewing on the ATC webpage.

Grant Discovery Challenge Check-up & Reminder

Discussion commenced on securing grants that support ideas we have already discussed. Dr. Summers suggested that the committee should resist the temptation to sift through the pages and pages of grants. A more efficient approach would be to for the committee to decide on what it wants to accomplish, what it is passionate about, and then search for the appropriate grants. Once the project is determined, the committee should contact the Grants office for assistance to search for the appropriate grants. Representatives from the Grants office will speak to the committee at the next meeting to identify grant opportunities that might be pertinent to the committee's goals. Dr. Summers also suggested that if the committee has a substantive idea that it really feels strongly about, and is the right thing to do, the committee should meet with the President to discuss possible

funding. The chair encourages the committee to think about projects that they feel passionate about and want to commit to. The committee will discuss potential projects at the February 23rd meeting.

Study Abroad Reorganization – Dr. Natali’s Presentation

The IP office has worked for several years to bring TCC’s study abroad programs in line with national standards and best practices. The past work has been to standardize the implementation of the programs. Now is the time for the college to look at study abroad from a curricular aspect. The presentation, Ensuring the Academic Integrity of our Short Term Programs, is a synopsis of a draft proposal on re-organizing study abroad in view of the mission to globalize the college.

TCC has a 30 year history of trips abroad. The Grants and International Programs office was highly decentralized until 1999-2000 when the IP office was created. Currently, TCC’s study abroad programs are short term lasting 2-6 weeks, which is the national trend. Typically, 50-100 students participate though this year’s participation is lower due to the current economy and the cost of travel.

The International Programs 2005-06 Management Plan aligned study abroad policies and procedures with college policy and state regulations and addressed three areas: program administration, financial accountability, and academic integrity.

Phase I: Administrative. Structure was fully implemented in 2007-08 and established college-wide procedures for planning and administering study abroad programs. Phase I addressed the following issues: risk and liability, safety, accounting and cash collection and procurement.

Phase II: Academics. This reorganization relates to the GLC’s vision statement in examining a problem from multiple perspectives. There are no guidelines today for faculty to create new programs and no guidelines for the Deans to approve a program. There is no uniformity of standards across the college. The programs risk becoming disconnected from the curriculum.

The deeper issues are how we define study abroad are sustainability, (so that a program does not depend on only one professor to continue a study abroad program, or that a course is created to support travel instead of creating a course that embeds travel in regularly offered courses), relevance (to student’s program of study), portability of credits and academic integrity. There is currently little distinction between international co-curricular travel and academic study abroad.

Recommendations:

1. Establish a program approval process that includes peer review; uses a college wide course proposal format; and ensures the academic integrity of academic work across faculty and academic divisions. It was suggested that the course proposal be vetted first through the GLC and then sent to the C & I committee for approval before being submitted to the respective Deans.
2. Charge the GLC to monitor academic policies related to study abroad; review new programs; recommend programs for final approval from the deans; and, evaluate existing programs.
3. Develop a standardized course proposal that presents detailed information about the program; compels the faculty director to develop and clearly articulate learning objectives; demonstrates the relationship between the program site and the proposed learning objectives; demonstrates the relationship between the proposed course and the TCC curriculum; and prompts the faculty leader to think through the various aspects of program planning (academic, financial, and logistical).

The committee recommended that the proposal begin with a definition of the variety of purposes for study abroad. Dr. Natali will electronically distribute a discussion draft of the document to the committee for review and discussion at the next meeting. The committee also noted that scholarships imply academic purpose versus co-curricular travel abroad.

Announcements

The Chair announced that the next **Globalization seminar #3** at the Chesapeake Campus is February 6th, NOT February 16th. All committee members are invited.

International Student Volunteers Update

The organization presented information on their program to students at the Virginia Beach campus. Normally, the ISV organization receives approximately 30 applications from a school within a week after a presentation; however, they received 28 applications from TCC students on the same day of their presentation. Though a number of students are interested in participating in this program, the cost may prohibit some students from participating. TCC needs a group of 10 students for this program to be viable.

International Education Week Student Activities

Proposals for campus activities may be submitted in writing to Dr. Summers to be presented to the Student Federation as they develop next year's Student Activities. By submitting proposals for IEW activities early, the Student Federation can designate funds to be set aside for IEW activities every year at the campus and college-wide level. Annual funds for the IEW activities will ensure continuity in planning and publicizing these important activities.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on February 23rd at 3:00 p.m. at the Norfolk campus.