

International Education Council
February 27, 2018

Minutes

Council members present: John Binkley (Chair), Daniel Degrauel (DNCOBE), Dean Sare (UGS-IAA), Jane Sun (Tseng College)

Department liaisons present: James D. Ballard (Criminology and Justice Studies), Monica Hussein (DNCOBE), Minsung Kwon (Elementary Education), Joong-won Lee (Recreation & Tourism Management), Sami Maalouf (Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics), Jessica Retis (Journalism), Andrew Surmani (Music), Joe Wiltberger (Central American Studies)

Call to Order

John Binkley, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Extended University Commons Conference Room 375 (EU 375).

New Business

Introduction: International Education Council

John Binkley explained the origins of the International Education Council. John mentioned that the International Education Council has a webpage on CSUN's website. The website can be found on the CSUN homepage under several drop-down menus listed as "All Things International." The webpage is named International Education Council: <http://www.csun.edu/tsengcollege/international/international-education-council>. John Binkley also explained the charge of the International Education Council and referred to the International Education Council Charge found on the website linked above.

The meeting minutes will be posted on the webpage and the International Education Council meets twice a semester.

Ideas for Website Additions

Andrew Surmani asked if the Council can add events and visiting speakers to the website, in order to share information. Daniel Degrauel suggested we also add study tours, such as the tours the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics is currently offering.

Presentation: COIL

John Binkley introduced a portion of a webinar for the Council to watch, entitled, "Global Learning in the COIL Environment: How Is It Done, What Can Be Learned."

Dr. Stephen Tippett, State University of New York (SUNY) presented on the overall structure of SUNY's COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) program, a New York State University program that creates two-sided teaching partnerships across international lines with international peer-to-peer learning. COIL allows for global learning for those who cannot participate in traditional study abroad programs by being cost effective, convenient, and immersive.

Francesca Cichello presented on a blended learning model, which combined a COIL program with a short travel seminar. In Cichello's class, non-traditional (adult learner) students and traditional students from the United States were joined with traditional students in Turkey in a 15-week Moodle course, culminating in a short travel seminar to two sites in Turkey. The important aspects of the blended learning model presented by Cichello included interdisciplinary teaching, the use of diverse technology and modulation, group work across cultures, daily site visits and debriefings while traveling, and the use of an instructional design expert to help both with the design and implementation of the course.

Julie Ficarra, a PhD student, presented on creating a COIL class on her own, without institutional structure. Ficarra connected with a teacher in Bulgaria through a mutual friend and created a program where her class would interact with an international learning club created by the professor in Bulgaria. They used a host of varied technology, including Facebook, blog posts, Google apps, video chats, and email to connect students with their assigned partners abroad. Ficarra faced challenges in finding tech-smart classrooms and in creating evaluations and assessments for her students, as their commitment to a credit course differed from their partners in Bulgaria.

Open Discussion

John Binkley opened the discussion by pointing out the Tseng College's MS in Taxation has now implemented a Hi-Flex Model in the program, allowing for synchronized learning in person and online. Currently, there is one classroom set up for this type of model, located in the Campus Store Complex. There is one more classroom being renovated in Tseng College that will also have this capability.

John Binkley stressed that COIL classes must be faculty driven in order to succeed building on faculty relationships with international scholars.

Daniel Degraevl shared that the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics are developing programs for undergraduate and graduate students to work collaboratively across international lines. In the DNCODE model, teams of 3 domestic and 3 international students work with a company, culminating with a trip to the company located outside of the U.S. However, this is an elite program within DNCODE that is not widely available to all students. There are limited international partnerships and limited funding.

Joong-won Lee reasoned that we need to encourage more co-teaching at CSUN and work to improve the technology we use in the classroom, such as using Moodle or Google for collaboration rather than Canvas, or Adobe Connect rather than Zoom.

John Binkley pointed out that in many COIL models, there are two different courses interacting but are not the same course or even subject, and do not have the same learning goals. For example, you may have a Food Science class and a Biology class interacting through discussions and a final project.

Discussion on Council Charge

John Binkley reminded the Council that in the fall 2017, members suggested connecting with various areas/initiatives across campus to invite representatives to a future council meeting to brainstorm collaboration ideas. These areas were:

1. Peer to Peer Mentorship
2. First Year Experience
3. Faculty Development

Daniel Degrauel volunteered to connect with Community Engagement and Dean Sare offered to reach out to First Year Experience before the next Council meeting. John will reach out to Carmen Lichtscheidl at the Visiting Scholars Program.

Monica Hussein brought up her concern that the charge of the Council is still unclear and suggested spending time defining the charge. John Binkley displayed and read the charge published online.

Other council members suggested using the Council to create more transparency and ease of access to information regarding international programs and partnerships at CSUN. Ideas included creating a monthly newsletter for events and scholars and creating a more prominent place on the website to showcase visiting scholars.

Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, John Binkley adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Bryanna Benedetti-Coomber

February 28, 2018