

The University of Louisiana at Monroe

Minutes for the International Education Council

November 14, 2007

Members Present: E. Bledsoe, K. Bledsoe, V. Hsia, M. Loeb (Chair),
M. Schmeer, T. Steckline, T. Kim

Members Absent: P. Newman, M. Parihar, M. Perez

Members Excused: C. Clark, S. Nazzal, A. Richardson, J. Wood, student members

Meeting called to order at 11:05 am.

T. Steckline and E. Bledsoe approved minutes as printed.

M. Loeb – checking for available meeting places for spring semester. No plans for a December meeting.

Focus was put on activities for spring 2008.

On the horizon is the international student satisfaction survey. The survey from 2007 should be reviewed for ideas and improvements. An email will be sent out regarding the new survey.

An international student outing at the zoo was also suggested.

Focus was turned to the International Education Expo.

The floor was open to many thoughts and impressions about the expo. In general the vision of the International Education Expo was fulfilled with a beautiful and well organized display of items grouped by continent with a very artistic stand-alone section of masks and furniture in the stage area. The International Student Association created eye-catching and informative display boards for each continent with maps and photos of significant landmarks. Many international students attended the event with name tags that invited other attendees to “ask me about my country.” The participation of some faculty and community members was a welcome addition. Especially notable was the Australian display with Richard Harrison demonstrating boomerangs and a didgeridoo. The family of Jennifer Teves also had a remarkable model of a home from the Philippines and samples of unusual food for attendees to try. Some other countries were also represented at the food table. Tae Yun Kim spent hours demonstrating calligraphy in Korean clothing and supplied outfits and volunteer students to wear them in the commons area to generate interest. In all it was a well-realized project.

On the downside, the P.R. was terrible. There was no email notification to the faculty. An e-mail submitted for distribution which suggested extra credit rationales was rejected for

distribution on the grounds that "too many requests for extra credit are submitted to the faculty." Since it took 2 weeks (and 3 phone calls) to get a ruling, the faculty was not contacted in enough time for them to announce it or see the relevance for their classes. Information was finally distributed through personal e-mails. Despite this, or perhaps because it was made a 5 Star Event, there were 165 students who signed the roster.

We need to work around the communication breakdown on campus.

V. Hsia – need more involvement from foreign language department.

T. Kim – need to make the event a regular occurrence so that the University and community will expect it.

For the future, the expo will need to have plans more in advance. Commitments for publication and advertisement need to be secured. Signage and banners need to improve in quantity and quality. International food items could be used as a marketing tool.

An invitation to administration should be sent, and a commitment to attend, if possible.

A suggestion was made to plan a food event for the spring semester.

T. Steckline volunteered to write thank-you notes for those that helped with the expo.

M. Loeb – A meeting for January was dubious. It was dependent upon the availability of Council members and the procurement of a meeting space.

Contact for scheduling will be via email.

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

Submitted respectfully,

Eric Bledsoe

Secretary, International Education Council

February 6, 2008