

International Education Council

Minutes from the [February 13, 2009](#) Meeting, in Student Center, room 160

Members present: Loeb, Eric and Kim Bledsoe, Bontty, Garza, Hsia, Jones, Nazzal, Schmeer, Steckline, Wood, Majumder
Members excused: Beutner, Krey

Item 1 - Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm. Kim Bledsoe agreed to serve as Secretary for this meeting.

Item 2 - Discussion of when to meet in future - It was agreed to move meetings to Thursdays at 1pm (not on faculty senate days)

Next meeting will be Thursday [February 26th](#) at 1:00, room 160 Student Center, to go over needs for the International Food Fair on March 10th.

Old Business

Item 1 -Mara Loeb commented that this committee does visible service to the University, an example is the Expo from last semester. The council then reviewed aspects of the last Expo which went very well:

Having students and Monica Bontty write visitors names in a variety of languages was a popular addition

Clothing displays were beautiful, especially the items brought by Saswati Majumder on the Manikins and rack supplied by Turner Steckline.

Many students served a variety of foods.

Having 50 school children from Bastrop attend was a special thrill.

Special thanks to Victor and Sammy for soliciting items for distribution from Jordan and Taiwan. Jim Woods and Victor also hauled many items there and back.

Turner Steckline, Mary Schmeer, and Mara Loeb faithfully staffed the sign-in tables and the beverage tables.

Many council members contributed items and helped with set-up including Kim Bledsoe, Mara Loeb, Turner Steckilne, and Saswati Majumder.

Lena Beutner's origami display and demonstration table was a hit!

Raghda Elsayed brought many items from Egypt and stayed to explain them to visitors. This is a great idea for each table.

Improvements for next year: More Publicity

Item 2 -All members of council were invited to attend the welcome party February 13th for new international students at Wesley Foundation.

Item 3 – The **International Food Fair** in three weeks will be held [Tuesday](#) March 10th from 11:00am.-1:30pm

this year council members are encouraged to either bring a food item to sell for/ 50 cent sample size serving OR donate \$10 to students to help pay their cost of supplies.

James suggested 16 tables and Mary said she would try to get 20 tables, table cloths, pitchers, 6 chaffing dishes

The council will once again purchase items for the international beverages table. Two beverage tables needed with a BIG sign saying FREE DRINKS. water table, ticket table (need many more tickets this year)

Eric suggested approved posters be put up a week in advance -Saswati Majumder volunteered to design them.

Another suggestion is to post the event on ULM webpage- Mara is asking Laura Harris/Lyndsey Wilkerson

Music will be supplied by Kim Bledsoe and Mara Loeb (Putamayo CD's and Gypsy Kings).

About set up arrangement: Please put restaurants at the end of the line - Athena, El Chico's, Chili Verde, Now Save Indian food

Eric will write a letter inviting restaurants to participate, Jim volunteered to contact restaurants.

ISA will provide: plates, spoons, napkins, cups, utensils, tickets

New Business

Item 1 - There is a focus group to explore how to improve international recruiting being put together of international faculty, administration, and students by Lisa Miller. Several dates have been suggested. Suggestions for recruitment opportunities were discussed.

Faculty should ask in own departments if members have connections to schools and persons abroad.

Ideally we could double or triple the number of international students.

We must encourage the development of an International scholarships.

Enoch's Café' is conducting a raffle for ULM students going to Ireland.

ULM should send recruitment materials any time a ULM group goes to another country to promote ULM

Victor Hsia shared two facts

* Mississippi college has 200 students from China (students pay FULL tuition)

* Michigan State recruited 100 students for grad program (students pay FULL

tuition)

ULM needs to solve TOEFL problem and VISA problems and recruit students to undergraduate programs.

Item 2 - Foundation scholarships for internationals are set up with minimal funds
transcript evaluation fee is a problem for ULM (other schools waive fees)
Turner Steckline asked if we are we doing an exit interview on why internationals leave before graduation. Mara Loeb said she conducts a brief exit interview.

Common responses are ULM does not have the courses they need – sometimes after being given the impression we did (bait n switch).

Students complain that they are treated unfairly by research directors yet are fearful of reporting it

This was followed by a discussion on the grievance procedures for student protection through Dr. Pani which needs to be communicated to them.

Item 3 - Dr. Loeb has emailed 3 student satisfaction survey examples to everyone and they were also at the meeting to look at. It is time to do another such survey.

A sub committee was proposed to revise student satisfaction survey

Then we need to set up a date for students to take it

The question was raised on how to do a search to get ideas how other Universities administer/have success in their surveys ie. Hopkins satisfaction surveys

Item 4 - ULM intl. students need help filing income tax returns

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm