

Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2015

Attendees: Ricardo Jacquez, Lowell Catlett, Kristian Chervenock, Elvira Hammond, Colin Large, Mary Jaspers, Miriam Chaiken, Nirmala Gunapala, Donna Wagner, Cornell Menking, Brenda Brown

Note: There was a clerical error that omitted Dean Loui Reyes from the invitation list. We offer our sincere apologies for that mistake.

Opening comments, updates, Globalization Award, Recruitment

Cornell Menking –

Many things to work on: Promotion and Tenure, assessment in the international track, faculty led programs and policies, joint degree programs and strategies, how to integrate global experiences and learning throughout the campus, distribution of funding, identifying gateway countries (Mexico, China, Ethiopia currently strong), and lastly, recruiting and using this group as a major resource.

Comprehensive Internationalization – This (handout) is a graphic from American Council on Education. You can see 6 pillars, our Strategic Plan lists 8; maintaining an institutional commitment, structure in place to facilitate internationalization, an engaging faculty, student mobility, and collaborative and engaging partnerships.

IBP's role should be as a service and support unit. If we are ever standing in the way we are failing our mission

Some thoughts: 1) This department has exhibited staying power, we are working on the accomplishments of decades of others in international engagement 2) there has been a consolidation of administrative functions - we re consolidated a lot of functions back to International Student and Scholar Services, took over the English operation and renamed it the Center for English Language Programs, renamed and expanded the Office of Education Abroad (study abroad as well as internships, service and research) and have expanded the Confucius Institute. The prestige and awareness of NMSU in engaging internationally is growing. CELP has applied for accreditation, the only one in New Mexico and West Texas, we are attending many conferences we have not attended before, we are traveling to more places than before. Looking at our degree seeking students, English students, and exchange students, we broke all previous records, the total is over 1600 people. From over 100 exchange students in CELP to 300 students, ISSS is up to 1200. Over 1,000 faculty, staff and non-study abroad students, are traveling abroad each year. CELP is the engine that propels us and due to them, we have reinvested over \$150,000 in other units outside of IBP for internationalization purposes. We hope to create a Global Education Certificate in the next year. I have decided we need to build some other things before we worry about assessment, we can make more productive use of our time. We are working on engaging the community. We changed the focus of the International Festival to include the Las Cruces

community, at this year's event and had over 20 community organizations present, and over 1,200 people attended. Our goal is to be one of the biggest events in Las Cruces by 2020.

Mary Jaspers – ISSS continues to increase each year. Over the past 5 years, total enrollment has increased 14%. This year, out of 1,200 students we had 560 Graduate students, 543 Undergraduate and 93 non-degree. We are about even in our Graduate and Undergraduate students. Over the last 5 years, the number of Graduate students have decreased by 12%, Under Graduate students have increased 54% due to sponsored students. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait make up most of the Undergraduate population. The top 5 countries represented are: Mexico, India, China, Jordan and Germany. In Student Support Services we have a very active International Club which involves mostly International Students but we are hoping to get domestic students involved as well. We have a “Global Coffee Hour” where our international students are very happy and proud to teach others about their countries. We have a new event called the “Thursday Global Meet-ups”, a place for all students to get together to discuss, share joint activities, they held a joint event with WAVE. It is a good way to introduce students to services, organization, and activities on campus. As mentioned, the International Festival had some very good changes, more community coming in, and we participate in a cultural bazaar, the first Saturday in October at the Branigan Cultural Center.

Ricardo Jaquez – Are the statistics you mentioned in this information available on the website?

Cornell Menking - yes they are, it is on the link.

Ricardo Jaquez – When we discuss our international relations, we can use that information as a background, great information to draw from.

Cornell Menking – Yes, and a lot more reports will be uploaded.

Colin Large - 2014 was a big year for CELP, we had over 300 students, and it was the first year we were able to calculate individual students, our enrollments was well up from previous years. We are very proud of this. We worked with the third group of English language teachers from Ecuador; we had an HRTM group; there was an outstanding program of 45 students from Brazil taking non-degree courses in STEM. Our summer enrollment (2nd summer) was 172 students, 61 from La Salle in Bogota, a group from Japan, one from Mexico, 23 countries were represented. Our top five countries are Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, and Saudi Arabia. Of these students, 48% had plans to attend NMSU or decided after they were here that they wanted to stay. We had 116 students come through our program and now are part of the NMSU population. Our inter-departmental function leads students to want to stay. Students are loving our program and really want to get engaged in the university and are proud of being aggies. We had 7 students complete our final level in December. We have revamped our curriculum and we are looking at to get accredited. We will be the only program in New Mexico accredited.

Kristian Chervenock – The Office of Education Abroad (OEA) is responsible for sending students out on exchange programs, summer intensive language programs, courses that we don't teach at NMSU but are able to transfer credits, and internships working with Aggies Go Global. We are rounding out our portfolio and we are always working to get more students out, as well as faculty. Statistically, New

Mexico ranked 46th with around 800 students abroad, mainly between NMSU and UNM. This is due mainly to socioeconomics. Within the U.S. it is around 2% study abroad and NMSU is around 2% - but we are lagging behind the rest of the world. We have concentrated on surveying our students to better understand the barriers, and we confirmed what we already suspected - they appear to be financial and curricular. We submitted a RPSP last year for \$250,000 which would fund scholarships to NMSU students. We also hosted a statewide meeting last year for all 28 institutions across New Mexico, however, Senators McSorley and Papen wanted to spread this money across the state, so UNM wrote an identical \$250,000 which morphed into a \$500,000 bill known as SB 64. We attended Legislative Lobby day, Cornell and his UNM counterpart testified and students spoke about their experiences. Unfortunately, we learned this was going to be funded from oil and gas money so we lost the big battle; however, it was good visibility at state legislative level and we will be writing another RPSP. Financially, for last 3 years we have \$70,000 to give out to study abroad scholarships (from ASNMSU). We need to focus more on curricular matching than on geographical location. "Study Abroad Pathways" is a new program, typically STEM fields are not the strongest areas for Study Abroad, but two of Ricardo Jaquez' departments have stepped up and we now have chemical engineering students in Ireland with a curricular match-up. The result has been a quadrupling of students studying abroad in engineering. Peter Martin just returned from Spain and Cyprus, funded through TIIG (Target International Initiative Grant) money. TIIGs are Dr. Menking's program to support miscellaneous international initiatives in a cost-share model with departments, in this case Dean Jaquez shared the expense and the Cyprus curriculum matches ours perfectly. Our long term goal is do this in each college. Faculty Led was hoped to be silver bullet but we have had some problems getting faculty compensated. Cornell is paying this summer's faculty to go abroad and we are working on a sustainable model to move forward with. We are also increasing diversity in Study Abroad through the Veterans Program and Diversity programs, they are receiving \$5000 each in scholarship monies

Elvira Hammond – The Confucius Institute was re- chartered for 8 years. This year we are serving over 1,000 students in the area with K-16 Chinese language programs in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Vado, and El Paso. We have expanded to a 3rd year Chinese program at NMSU and have our first off-campus dual enrollment program at Cottonwood Preparatory Academy in Albuquerque. We are serving local community with our Language Academy, and now have a certified Chinese language assessment center for students wishing to receive scholarships to study in China. For high school, our Chinese partners offer the Chinese Bridge Summer Camp. Last year we sent 7 students to study for 2 weeks in China. This year, we are sending 30 students. (Students pay only for their visas and airfare – all China costs are born by our Chinese partners.) We are growing our partnerships in China, and thanks to Dr. Menking, we are adding another partner, the prestigious Hebei Normal University. We receive most of our funding from China, around \$150,000- to \$180,000 a year, and NMSU provides two salaries and offices. The primary challenge has been to find how to collaborate with the New Mexico Public Education Department to get our teachers certified by the state.

Cornell Menking - Discussion topic – This is the first time my office has volunteered to help with international recruiting, it became part of conversation when ISSS moved back to our area most recently. We are looking at three challenges:

We have hired a “green” recruiter and are working to make some administrative changes which the Provost has asked for to make it easier for international candidates to apply to the university. Graduate students currently have to go to Admissions, the department, the international office and Graduate School, we need to restructure that. They will now only go to two departments, Admissions and the Graduate School. For undergraduates, we want a one stop shop. There is a memo which should be approved for a one stop for undergraduates and a two stop shop for graduates. The three challenges we are facing are: 1) budget for recruiting – there is money for recruiting at NMSU but none in ISSS 2) tuition rates – the misunderstanding is that we are inexpensive, but for non-residents, we are not competitive. Tuition Rates are a problem. 3) The deepest problem is when we go and talk to departments about growth and possibilities, we receive a lukewarm response or we get stonewalled. These are lean times, and there is a low motivation problem. These are problems we need to address before we can move forward. Loui is concerned about infrastructure before we do more recruiting, he is interested in recruiting but asks if we are ready to bring in more students. *[UPDATE: Financial restraints have caused us to postpone this strategy.]*

Ricardo Jaquez – Regarding the departments’ lukewarm response, in Engineering our undergraduate is small, but our graduates are 50% international Students, and the Ph.D. program is 100% international students.

Cornell Menking - Engineering is incredibly engaged internationally, but we do have some colleges and departments where we seem to get stonewalled. The exception could be online, with an example being the College of Education’s plans for an online program; however, for face-to-face programs on campus there is no revenue sharing and little motivation to grow, especially with increasingly tightening budgets. We have to ensure that we provide the infrastructure to accommodate growth.

Ricardo Jaquez - Engineering supports the majority of our undergraduate students. They need that financial break and we provide it through research. I wonder if there is distinction between programs that have research funds to help them.

Cornell Menking - I have proposed to reduce the tuition rate for international students, especially Mexican students. There is an economic strategic advantage to educate those in the state of Chihuahua, and they would flock here. We hear they would rather come here than UTEP. More Mexicans study at UTEP than any other U.S. university.

Lowell Catlett - My experience is that if you are going to get any traction on this, Dan or Garrey need to present to Budget and Finance that if you drop the price “this is what it is going to do.” They would rather have 100% of 0 than 10% of a big number, but overall revenue will go up.

Cornell Menking – The enrollment shortfall could be a silver lining since we are so strapped that we need to try something new.

Kristian Chervenock - If the Deans could collaborate to take a proposal to the President and the Provost, there could prove to be power in numbers.

Miriam Chaiken - Do we know whether the students at UTEP are spending the night at home?

Kristian Chervenock - Only a 1,000 live there. But they would prefer NMSU. Sadly, the 135 rule doesn't apply.

Cornell Menking – We are taking two busloads down to Chihuahua next fall to hope to come back with some type of increased desire to have Mexican nationals support.

Donna Wagner – I was thinking when you said that, the residency program of BCOM can attract more students because of border experience they are depending on. Madescuw is the Academic Dean.

Kristian Chervenock – There is a state statute for WICHE and WUI rules we discussed with Dacia Sedillo, she said we need the Secretary of Higher Education and the Regents to approve it, we are really missing the boat with Mexico . UNM spends hundreds of thousand on recruitment and their numbers are going to boom. We can save jet-fuel and do our work over the border. We need the heavy hitters. Mexican nationals see them here. It would solve the enrollment issue. We don't need to send our people around the world.

Miriam Chaiken – I went to a meeting in Denver last year at WICHE headquarters, there was interest in starting a Native American Program, we have some great courses but in order for use to participate it would have cost us \$4000 and as low as that was, it would not get NMSU support.

Ricardo Jaquez – The WICHE WUI issue, have you had this discussion with the Provost?

Cornell Menking – No. Bernadette is the overseer of WICHE WUI

Ricardo Jaquez – This seems to be a good topic for the Deans Mini Meeting and you need to be on the agenda.

Kristian Chervenock – I believe we all need to go together as a group.

Cornell Menking – Yes, I need to meet with Dacia and get on Deans Mini Meeting Agenda. *[Update: This is in the works.]*

Donna Wagner – I do not understand why are we not capitalizing on our relationships.

Ricardo Jaquez – Didn't the President just instigate something?

Cornell Menking – Yes, in Mexico City. There is also the 100,000 Strong Initiative (Proyecto 100,000). There are a lot of collaborations. After Carruthers took office he had a visit with the Mexican Counsel, they came to say congratulations to Carruthers and I spoke to him, he was very enthusiastic about the possibility of us having lower rates for Mexicans.

Miriam Chaiken – The Governor of Queretaro is from NMSU and may be the future President of Mexico. We need to work with this well-established linkage. It speaks about entrepreneurial, it should be attractive.

Cornell Menking - The current thinking/strategy is that our retention is so low that if we would raise our retention rate we can largely solve the enrollment problem.

Ricardo Jaquez – We need a multi-pronged approach.

Cornell Menking – There is a waiver committee – ISSS has 75 revolving waivers and that group wants to pull our waivers.

Miriam Chaiken – I know an exception can be that students can come to a graduate program, take 6 credit and receive in-state tuition.

Next Meeting:

Group expressed a willingness to work via email or on an as-needed basis. Next formal meeting will be next year.