



**International Strategy Advisory Group**  
**Minutes**  
**October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014**  
**9:00 am – 11:30 am**  
**MUSC – The Hyliard and Grace Chapel Room 318**

Attendees:

Peter Mascher, Chair  
Susan Searls Giroux  
Andrea Baumann  
Mary Williams

Y. Rachel Zhou  
Bonny Ibhawoh  
Kalai Saravanamuttu  
Gary Warner

Sean Van Koughnett  
Doug Welch

Joanne Squires, committee secretary

Regrets:

Lehana Thabane

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions – Peter Mascher
2. Opening Remarks – Patrick Deane
3. AVP IA Briefing:
  - Current International Initiatives
  - International Compendium – Andrea Baumann
  - OIA Web Site Update
  - CBIE Report: “Canada’s Global Engagement Challenge” - <http://cbie.ca/news/rising-to-canadas-global-engagement-challenge-cbie-champions-study-abroad/>
4. Reinstatement of the International Initiatives Micro Fund (IIMF)
5. Establishment of an International Research Investment Fund (IRIF)
6. Review of the McMaster Policy on Human Rights and International Activities:  
  
<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/General/HR/Human%20rights%20and%20international%20activities.pdf>
7. Introduction to the Global Justice Initiative – G. Warner

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Peter Mascher (PM) welcomed the committee members to what is the first multi-disciplinary committee pertaining to international interests. Introductions made, committee members are:
  - Peter Mascher, AVP International Affairs (Chair)
  - Andrea Baumann, AVP (Global Health), Faculty of Health Sciences
  - Bonny Ibhawoh, Associate Dean (Graduate Studies & Research), Faculty of Humanities
  - Kalai Saravanamuttu, Associate Professor, Chemistry and Chemical Biology
  - Susan Searls Giroux, AVP (Faculty)
  - Allison Sekuler, AVP and Dean of Graduate Studies – Doug Welch, Acting
  - Lehana Thabane, Professor/Associate Chair, Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics
  - Sean Van Koughnett, AVP (Students and Learning) and Dean of Students
  - Gary Warner, Professor Emeritus, co-leader of the Global Justice Initiative
  - Mary Williams, VP University Advancement
  - Y. Rachel Zhou, Associate Professor, School of Social Work and Institute on Globalization and the Human Condition

## OPENING REMARKS

- Patrick Deane (PD), President and Vice-Chancellor, provided opening remarks. Internationalization is a topic 'close to the heart', as he will serve as Chair of the Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE). Hopes committee gives thought and discussion toward curriculum transformation.

## STRUCTURE OF AGENDA, MEETING SCHEDULE

- Meetings to be held quarterly
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Joanne Squires to send proposed dates to committee members
- Recurring Items on Meeting Agenda
  1. AVPIA Briefing
  2. Brief from each committee member's area
  3. Items which arise
  4. Committee members to submit agenda items they would like to include

## **AVP IA BRIEFING**

### CURRENT INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

- PM participated in the Edu-Canada Education Fair supported by the Canadian Consulate in Sao Paulo, Brazil, labeled 'Imagine Studying in Canada.' Sixty (60) Canadian institutions were represented, primarily from BC, Alberta and Quebec. Most widely represented institutions were language schools. Focus was to present McMaster's Graduate programs. Close to 80 students registered with varied interests, although MBA Coop, most prevalent. Costs associated with our programs seemed to meet student expectations.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Data for registered students' needs to be analyzed and findings will be communicated at next meeting.
- PM also attended and associated education fair in nearby Campinas, Brazil. Close to 50 students registered. The University of Campinas plans to offer a scholarship program 'Humanities without Borders'. Set to launch soon and McMaster University has been registered, although the detailed scope is still unclear.
- Brazil would like to see an exchange program, where Canadian students attend their universities. It needs to be determined which incentives McMaster could provide to entice students to study abroad.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** PD shared Ontario University statistics on international registrations and the analysis of those figures. Requested that a discussion take place to examine McMaster's standings.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Next meeting agenda item to include, 'How to set targets, including an exchange program'
- An announcement was made by the Ontario Premier's office that a Science and Technology delegation will be travelling to China in late October 2014. Drs. Elbestawi (VP Research and International Affairs) and PM were invited to participate and will be visiting partners and universities while there.

### INTERNATIONAL COMPENDIUM

- Andrea Baumann (AB) provided a detailed overview of the compendium. It is a document based on self-reported data and is intended to provide an understanding of what kind of international research, educational and clinical activities faculty were undertaking. The data is 1 – 1 ½ years old and needs updating. The objective is to stimulate discussion with faculty members to ensure that their activities are being included. The document is also intended to help with recruitment and connectedness with anyone requiring a reference piece. Bonny Ibhawoh (BI) suggested creating an ongoing, online submission system.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** AB will provide a template form to be brought to the group for approval at the next meeting

### OIA WEB SITE UPDATE

- Current web site is under construction. The objective is to move to a more current, intuitive site. It will have several, more independent access points and it will be attempted to anticipate the needs of various target groups interested in the site, i.e. international students, research collaborators, institutional partners, etc. A key section will include recent international activities and news. Target for completion is the end of October. BI suggested incorporating social media as a means of better targeting students.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Include a high level overview of the new website, all members to review and provide feedback.
  - Here is the direct link to the redesigned OIA site:  
<http://oia.mcmaster.ca/>

## CBIE REPORT

- CBIE represents Canada in the international educational arena. Issues reports on enrolment data and distribution of international students. PD will become Chair of the Board in November 2014. A sub group was created [‘CALDO’, Calgary, Alberta, Laval, Dalhousie, Ottawa] to coordinate activities in Brazil. CALDO is seeking new members; Western and Waterloo have signed on. Should McMaster participate?
  - **ACTION ITEM:** To be added as an agenda item at the next meeting in January.

## REINSTATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES MICRO FUND (IIMF)

- The IIMF’s objective is to provide incentives to (typically) individuals who wish to establish a new international relationship. The small (\$5K max) investments are meant to reduce the threshold to international activities and act as seed funding, ideally leading to joint projects and international partnerships. From various conversations with members of the McMaster community – including Deans – it is clear that there will be significant demand for such an initiative.
- We anticipate funding up to ten new initiatives over a one year period. Some agreed-upon conditions include the following:
  - Funds cannot be used for existing relationships
  - A one page proposal outlining the purpose of the project will be required
  - The preferred target audience are faculty members. Upon suggestion by Susan Searls Giroux (SSG), student groups may be eligible under exceptional circumstances

## ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INVESTMENT FUND (IRIF)

- This Fund is meant to provide additional support for Faculty-endorsed and –supported international initiatives, typically multi-disciplinary and/or involving more than one Faculty. IRIF funding will require a more formal application process and a more detailed budget than requests for IIMF support. Adjudication will fall under the jurisdiction of the ISAG or a sub-committee of it. It is anticipated that typical IRIF support will be around \$50K per project.  
IRIF would be a ‘matching’ fund, where the involved Faculties provide monetary and logistic support. The objective would be to fund 4 to 5 projects per calendar year.
  - **ACTION ITEM:**
    1. PM to make a general announcement that the Fund is being launched and those initiatives will be reviewed as long as money is available.
    2. Parameters need to be clearly defined.
    3. Topic will be added to next meeting of ISAG.

## REVIEW OF THE MCMMASTER POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- PD requested this document be reviewed and brought up to date. Last updated December 1990.
  - **ACTION ITEM:**
    1. PM to provide the document to the group for review
    2. Group members to provide feedback – comments, revisions, suggestions and send to PM.
    3. By end of next ISAG meeting a draft proposal should be ready for review by PVP prior to submission to Senate.

A second document, “Procedures for Offering Admission to International Students on Faculty-based Contracts” was last updated January 2007 and will be reviewed and edited as above.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE GLOBAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

- Gary Warner (GW) outlined the progress of the launch of this initiative, which is to enable networking among faculty/alumni involved in humanitarian work. The humanitarian focus needs to be broadened, while keeping an international focus and a global presence. A Global Justice Committee was formed and selected 'water' as the main theme, connecting, food, energy, and people. Structured courses have been developed, with input from the McMaster community. A second goal is to foster a 'HUB', involving the many people who can bring expertise and knowledge to the table. It is a work in progress and further details will be communicated on the Arts and Sciences Program web site. It was suggested by BI to advertise this initiative more broadly.

## OTHER BUSINESS

- International Electives –AB reported that Health Sciences is trying to harmonize pre- and post-departure instruction for outgoing students. They are looking at various initiatives and have a target date of January 2015. The goal is to then harmonize with other faculty and student services for a pre-departure document. PM suggested including a component specific to the country being visited.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** PM to investigate if there are existing policies or guidelines regarding countries to which McMaster students are or are not permitted to travel.