This bulletin is directed to all ISU faculty affiliated with the International Studies Program (ISP). Its purpose is to inform the ISP Affiliated Faculty about actions taken over the past academic year by the ISP Advisory Board, raise issues currently facing the governance in ISP, report on recent data regarding student participation in the Minor in International Studies, and to generally raise awareness about the ISP among the relevant faculty.

Advisory Board Actions

There were no radical changes made in the programs governed by the ISP Advisory Board, but several steps were taken toward refining the Minor in International Studies and clarifying some administrative issues.

Revision of Bylaws
The bylaws governing the ISP were revised and updated. Current version is available on the IS website.

Change in Language Requirement
The requirement for language studies was altered toward a more liberal requirement. Instead of requiring students in the IS Minor to complete a second year of a particular language, the new requirement is to complete six credit hours of language study beyond the ISU Foundational Studies requirement of six credit hours. Students in the minor will have to complete the same number of courses in foreign language, but they may be of any mix the student chooses. This allows a broader range of preferences and capabilities while not restricting students who are emphasizing foreign language study in their degree programs. The previous requirement meets the new one.

Clarifying Requirement for the Study Abroad Experience
Although historically the IS Minor required students to have a Study Abroad Experience, exactly what constituted such an experience was never clearly specified. The operating assumption had been that a traditional year or semester abroad at a foreign university was the manner in which students would meet this requirement. New forms of academic opportunities in foreign countries – generally much shorter in duration – have emerged in recent years. The ISP Advisory Board determined that a Study Abroad Experience must meet the following minimal standard to fulfill the requirement for the IS Minor:

1. A minimum of six credit hours (or equivalent) on site in an ISU-approved study abroad program.
2. A minimum time of four weeks residence in the foreign country where the study is pursued.

Selection of Advisory Board, Council of Programs Representatives and Academic Advisor
Faculty to serve on the ISP Advisory Board for the 2013-14 AY were selected. However, one member chosen has since resigned from ISU. The ISP Advisory Board will consist of: Timothy Hawkins (History); Kathleen Heath (Earth and Environmental Systems); Rick Lotspeich (Economics); Betty Phillips (Languages, Literatures and Linguistics); and Ethan Strigas (Kinesiology, Recreation and Sports Management). A sixth member will be appointed early in the fall semester.

Ethan Strigas and Betty Phillips were selected to represent International Studies on the Council of Programs, the faculty committee governing Interdisciplinary Programs.

Kathleen Heath has agreed to continue serve in the role of Academic Advisor for International Studies courses of study (currently the Minor in International Studies).

Revision of Language in the ISU Catalog
Even before the changes to the Minor in International Studies made over this past academic year, the catalog copy describing the program was out of date and inconsistent with actual practices. That has now been corrected.
Elimination of International Business Concentration

For several years this program of study was associated with International Studies at ISU and listed on the IS website. Research by the ISP Advisory Board and consultation with faculty and administrators in the Scott College of Business revealed that there has been no student participation in this program in recent years, if ever. Accordingly, the decision was made to terminate this program as an element of International Studies.

Awards and Scholarships

The following students received recognitions for their performance in International Studies:

Amy Krupa for International Studies Ambassador
Jesse Jefferson for Outstanding International Studies Student

The following students were awarded scholarships for a Study Abroad Experience ($500 each):

Amy Krupa and Cassandra Hanchett

Future Issues That Need Attention

Dissolution of IP ~ the Future of ISP Administration

The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences determined in fall 2012 that the current administrative structure under which ISP operated – Interdisciplinary Programs (IP), will be dismantled and transformed into a new kind of academic department that would include programs in philosophy and sociology as well as the three programs that have been administered under IP over the past several years. It is not clear that the new configuration will be appropriate for International Studies, and the ISP Advisory Board engaged in extended discussion about how to proceed in light of this administrative restructuring. The decision of the Advisory Board was to postpone any action until we have more information regarding the details of the Dean’s proposed new department. That initiative was supposed to have resulted in completed plan submitted to the Office of the Dean by 1 March 2013. This deadline was not met, and we have not yet received any formal communication regarding this plan. So, we are still in a wait-and-see mode on this issue.

Keri Yousif completed her term as Director of IP this spring. Debra Israel (Economics) has been appointed as the Interim Director for IP during the transitional phase.

Need for Replacement for Departed Faculty Member

Paul-Rene Tamburro (Social Work) was in the middle of a term on the ISP Advisory Board at the end of the 2012-2013 AY. He has resigned from ISU and the Advisory Board will need to appoint someone from the Affiliated Faculty to complete his term. If you are willing to serve in this capacity, please forward your self-nomination to Rick Lotspeich (RickL@indstate.edu). Names submitted will be provided to the first meeting of the Advisory Board in the coming academic year for consideration.
ISU Data on Students in IS Minor

Completed IS Minors at ISU

Total Declared IS-Minors at ISU