International Studies Committee Annual Report. 2009-2010
Submitted by Charlotte Blessing, Chair.

This was the first year the International Studies Committee convened as a standing committee. The Committee met each 3rd Wednesday of the block, a total of eight meetings during the 2009/10 academic year. Minutes from the meetings are available in the Office of International Programs, Gill House.

Committee Members: Jeff Noblett, Eric Popkin, Ginger Morgan, Wade Roberts, Tracy Coleman, Alexei Pavlenko, Heather Browne and Charlotte Blessing. Donna Beziou is the non-voting record keeper.

Since this was the inaugural year of the Committee, a substantial amount of time was spent on making sure all members were familiar with the Committee’s mandate and the management of international programming at the College, including, for example, policies and financial aid guidelines.

Twice (fall and spring), the Committee reviewed students’ petitions to enroll in non-approved off campus programs as well as to study off campus during the summer in credit bearing programs.

In the spring semester, the Committee sponsored a discussion lunch for faculty who were interested in civic engagement and off campus studies internationally and domestically. Representatives from Higher Educational Consortium Urban Affairs (HECUA), an MN based organization CC is a member of, presented and led the discussion.

Several major pressing tasks were discussed over numerous meetings. Some of the discussions will continue next year.

1. Review and Evaluation of approved off campus programs
2. Affiliated Programs
3. Issues involving the Registrar’s Office

Outcomes:

1. All off campus programs will be reviewed each four to five years. During the summer, the Office of International Programs will gather material and begin the review of about twenty different off campus programs. Faculty committee members will review the curricular aspect of these programs during the fall semester. Since this is the first time
the Committee undertakes this kind of comprehensive review, it is a work in progress until the best processes and procedures are determined.

2. The Committee continues to refine a comprehensive document which succinctly defines and lists the criteria for the establishment and evaluation of affiliated programs. The Committee recommends that what is currently called affiliated programs be changed to partnership programs. The name change better describes the mutuality of such programs, minimizes confusion (approved vs. affiliated) and is in line with what this kind of collaboration is typically referred to.

3. An official transcript from CC approved off campus programs is not longer required. During the review of a new program/off campus providers, the School of Record will be a criteria for approval. Students who wish to receive transfer credit from a non-approved program must petition through the International Studies Committee before they enroll in the program. The Registrar’s Office and the Office of International Programs will collaborate to ensure the process is not circumvented as it has been previously.

Recommendation for FEC

To establish officially what was approved at the Block 5 Faculty meeting, the Committee recommends that the FEC amends the mandate for the International Studies Committee mandate to include the following clause. *The International Studies Committee is tasked with reviewing and if approved forwarding all new off campus partnership proposals to the Committee on Instruction, the Dean’s Office, Legal Counsel, the President’s Office and finally the Faculty Floor.*

All the Committee members expressed interest in continuing next year with the work they have accomplished this year. The learning curve was steep especially during the first semester but indispensable to the task taken on in the Spring.

Next year, the Committee intends to continue to develop clear guidelines and criteria for off campus studies as well as initiating campus wide discussions about international studies at CC.