Internationalization Laboratory Committee Meeting 4/24/12

Attending: Robert Marley, Norm Peterson, Greg Young, Patricia Ingraham, Elizabeth Kenyon, Yvonne Rudman, Doug Steele, Debra De Bode, Marty Frick, Deidre Combs, Jim Rimpau, Janelle Rasmussen

Robert Marley will be an ACE Fellow for the coming academic year but will remain involved in the IL to the extent possible. Ada Giusti has been suggested as a new co-chair and this suggestion was met with approval by meeting attendees.

The Activity & Budget Review Task Force reported that both the student and department head surveys developed by the group were sent out last week. To date 96 student responses (from a random pool of 1500) and 2 department head responses have been received. A copy of the student survey was distributed. The task force will next be working on analyzing data that is already collected, moving forward on the cost-benefit analysis task, and following up with department heads and later faculty to get the most complete information possible from departments.

The Goals & Learning Outcomes Task Force has changed language in the draft of learner outcomes to indicate the competencies and experiences that globally competent graduates of MSU should have, to replace language that may have been interpreted as meaning that all MSU graduate would be globally competent. The outcomes are seen as “aspirational” rather than absolute. A discussion of the pros and cons, as well as practicality of a foreign language requirement, perhaps as part of CORE 3.0 took place.

Yvonne Rudman noted that UM is implementing a foreign language requirement and will find more detail. Norm Peterson will share Larry Summers “dialogue” on this subject. A request is in to David Singel to give his input on how best to engage faculty in considering the draft learner outcomes and giving feedback. Norm Peterson suggested that IL conduct a few focus group discussions on the learner outcomes with available faculty this summer to prepare for a Fall Semester 2012 formal roll-out of the outcomes.

The Council discussed plans to organize the Action Plan Task Force which needs to be in place by the Fall semester. The TF will be chaired by Marty Frick. Norm Peterson stated that all international interests across campus need representation on this committee. The Action Plan needs to be completed by April 2013.

The list “Review of Essential Activities/Functions Checklist” drafted by Norm Peterson was discussed. Suggested additions included: Extension (international extension systems), engagement (throughout the list), community and state outreach, internships, faculty development (discussion of agencies like Winrock that work with USAID to send faculty/staff experts on short-term, fully supported training experiences abroad was discussed as a viable option for this, also the Fulbright Specialist program).

Summer Meetings will be held. A request for individual schedule information will be sent out soon.