In attendance: Patricia Reynolds, Paul Messplay, Les Johnson, Dan Hubbard, Mukesh Srivastava, Colin Rafferty, Nabil Al-Tikriti (chair), Jonathan Levin, Jose Sainz, and Cheryl Mason.

Meeting commenced at 4:05 pm.

Al-Tikriti reminded everyone that the committee is on two-hour slots for each meeting thanks to classroom scheduling. Cox and Meringolo will double-up on the 2/26 meeting.

Today’s meeting is the last of the fall meetings; budgetary discussions will begin next week.

Jose Sainz spoke on behalf of the Center for International Education (see attached presentation), describing what the CIE does, both for UMW students studying abroad and foreign students studying at UMW.

Reynolds asked how well distributed the information about CIE was among the faculty. Sainz said the office was only a few years old, but that they had they had created several resources for faculty about creating and running a study-abroad program. Al-Tikriti said that he thought the breakdown was about 65%-35% aware-unaware. Reynolds wondered how many more students could be reached with a greater outreach. Al-Tikriti discussed the effectiveness of the Study Abroad Fair at reaching students. Sainz discussed the shift in interacting with students—it’s gone from “where do you want to go?” to “what is it you want to study?” Levin suggested a script for advisers—how they can start to discuss studying abroad with students.

Discussing inbound students, Mason said that we have one of the smallest numbers of international students in the United States. There are two types of inbound students CIE works with—exchange students and degree-seeking students. Both groups have different needs. There were fourteen exchange students last fall; four this spring. In addition, there are about 30 degree-seeking students, including five degree-seeking graduate students.

Hubbard asked how what methods we might use to increase international student enrollment. A focus on the DC/Northern VA/MD area was suggested, including embassy families and private schools in that area.

Sainz then discussed the challenges facing CIE. Students getting into the courses they need is a significant problem. Levin said it’s a curricular planning problem based on the decentralization of the schedule being planned by departments independently of each other. He also discussed the issue of tuition imbalances between UMW and exchanging schools, as well as support systems for inbound students.

Sainz then discussed the opportunities at hand for CIE. New software would allow students to be tracked from start to finish ($15,000/year: SEVIS). The creation of an ad-hoc committee for
international education was discussed. Many other possibilities exist, from a brand-level rethinking to a dramatic increase in the number of students going abroad.

Levin stated that this will sit somewhere on the upper end of the priority spectrum for the campus. Hubbard praised the return on investment that Sainz and his team have done with CIE.

Meeting adjourned at 5:28 PM.

Submitted by Colin Rafferty, secretary