23 January 2012

Re: Fall Semester 2011 Report to the George Mason University Faculty Senate by the Academic Initiatives Committee

Committee Membership: Elizabeth Sook Chong, CHHS, Wayne Froman, CHSS, Tom Kiley, COS, Thomas Speller, VSE, Anne Schiller, Associate Provost, Robert Johnston, SOM, (Chair)

Academic Initiatives Committee Senate Report for Fall Semester 2011

The Senate Academic Initiatives Committee met six times during the fall semester. Below is a summary of the activities at these meetings:

Date: 21 September 2011

Attending: Elizabeth Chong, Wayne Foreman, Robert Johnston, Tom Kiley, Thomas Speller, (Faculty Committee Members), Peter Pober (Faculty Senate, Chair), Peter Stearns, (Provost)

Agenda Items:

1) Discussion of the faculty senate action to refer the spring 2011 committee report back to the committee.

2) Election of Robert Johnston as committee chair.

Date: 5 October 2011

Attending: Elizabeth Chong, Wayne Foreman, Robert Johnston, Tom Kiley, Thomas Speller, (Faculty Committee Members), Anne Schiller (Associate Provost), Min Park (Faculty Advisor, Korea Program)

Agenda Items:

1) Consideration of an alternative draft of the committee report to the faculty senate for the spring semester. It was agreed that this would be carried over to the next meeting pending a second alternative draft.

2) We were briefed on the report to the Board of Visitors at their 25 September meeting regarding the Songdo, Korea initiative.

3) Agreed upon individual committee member responsibilities (assignments)
4) Received a report from Anne Schiller and Min Park regarding the Songdo, Korea initiative.

5) Anne Schiller reported that the Moscow State University Program had been revamped and a new director appointed.

Date: 17 October 2011

Attending: Elizabeth Chong, Wayne Foreman, Robert Johnston, Tom Kiley, Thomas Speller, (Faculty Committee Members)

Agenda Items:

1) Approved the revised Spring 2011 committee report for the faculty senate.

2) Discussion of the various items received by the committee with regard to the Songdo initiative including the additional items the committee would like to receive.

3) Received a report that we have made an initial contact for more details regarding the Moscow State University Program.

Date: 9 November 2011

Attending: Elizabeth Chong, Wayne Foreman, Robert Johnston, Tom Kiley, Thomas Speller, (Faculty Committee Members), Anne Schiller (Associate Provost), Min Park (Faculty Advisor, Korea Program)

Agenda Items:

1) Min Park briefed the committee regarding her recent visit to Songdo with other university personnel. The committee had received a written report on the 7th of November. The committee did ask for follow up on a several issue/questions.

2) Due to travel commitments of the director of the Moscow State University program the committee agreed to defer further discussion of this program until a later meeting.

Date: 30 November 2011

Attending: Elizabeth Chong, Wayne Foreman, Robert Johnston, Tom Kiley, (Faculty Committee Members), Min Park (Faculty Advisor, Korea Program)


**Agenda Items:**

1) Discussion of the Songdo initiative including:

   a) A draft interim report for the 7 December 2011 faculty senate meeting was discussed and approved.

   b) The program’s financial planning status.

   c) Min Park reported that a contract was expected to be executed in December.

   d) Other universities that are part of the Songdo Global University (SGU) will not compete with us in terms of programs offered. Other Korean universities not part of SGU may offer competing programs in the area.

   e) The targeted population of potential students was also discussed.

2) The committee received documents provided by Svetlana Filiatreau with regard to the Moscow State University program.

Date: 14 December 2011

**Attending:** Elizabeth Chong, Wayne Foreman, Robert Johnston, Tom Kiley, Thomas Speller, (Faculty Committee Members), Anne Schiller (Associate Provost), Svetlana Filiatreau (Moscow State University Program Director), Lisa O’Hara (International Program’s Budget Assistant), Talisha Mottinger (International Program’s Budget Analyst)

1) Report on the Moscow State University Program

   a) Enrollments: First cohort began with 7 students, 3 remain. Second cohort has had 6 or 7 students. Initial breakeven enrollment was 20 students, now estimated to be about 8 students.

   b) Partnership agreement was amended in May of 2011. Students will now matriculate at George Mason in the fall after having spent one complete year at Moscow State University.

   c) Program is now part of the Office of Global and International Strategies and Svetlana Filiatreau is the program director.
d) Visiting faculty from Moscow State University are expected to spend a week on research while in residence at George Mason.

2) Korea Songdo Initiative

a) The committee did receive from Min Park a revised report regarding the initiative the evening prior the meeting.

b) There was discussion regarding a MOU between George Mason University and the representatives of this initiative in Korea. The committee has received a copy of the initial planning document MOU.

c) The course approval and faculty appointment processes are in order. Program schedules have been received with some possible errors noted.

d) Financial projections beyond 5 years may be requested. As the program is out of state it must be self-supporting.

e) It was agreed that the committee would not make a recommendation at this meeting.

3) The committee agreed upon a meeting schedule for the spring semester 2012.