18 April 2012

Re: Spring Semester 2012 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, Vice President for Global Strategies, Robert Johnston, SOM, (Chair)

**Academic Initiatives Committee Senate Report for Spring Semester 2012**

The Senate Academic Initiatives Committee met five times during the spring semester 2012 and is scheduled to meet a sixth time on the 7th of May. Below is a summary of the activities at these meetings:

**Date: 23 January 2012**

**Attending:** Elizabeth Chong, Wayne Froman, Robert Johnston, Tom Kiley, Thomas Speller, (Faculty Committee Members), Anne Schiller (Vice President for Global Strategies), Min Park (Executive Director for Proposed Korea Campus)

**Agenda Items:**

1) Review and discussion of the proposed draft report to the Faculty Senate of the committee’s activities during the fall semester of 2012. The report was amended and approved by the committee.

2) Update on the Songdo, Korea initiative including a revised draft report to the committee dated 19 January 2012, a marketing and strategic plan document, and a recruiting plan. The committee discussed the four options below for providing counsel to the Faculty Senate:

   a) Endorse the Songdo initiative based on the information provided

   b) A qualified endorsement; endorse the Songdo initiative subject to certain conditions

   c) Not endorse the Songdo initiative

   d) Defer a recommendation until certain information or conditions are satisfied

The committee decided on the second option and asked the chair to prepare a draft of the recommendation to be sent to the Faculty Senate.
3) The committee requested of Anne Schiller that her office prepare a due diligence report and work flow analysis for the Moscow State University—George Mason University dual degree program.

Date: 6 February 2012

Attending: Elizabeth Chong, Wayne Froman, Robert Johnston, Tom Kiley, Thomas Speller, (Faculty Committee Members), Min Park (Executive Director for Proposed Korea Campus)

Agenda Items:

1) Consideration of the draft committee report recommendation to the Faculty Senate regarding the Songdo, Korea initiative. The draft report was amended to reflect the committee discussion and approved.

2) The committee discussions of the dual degree program with Moscow State University led to a number of specific questions and requests for information. Wayne Froman reported that he had been in contact with Svetana Filiatreau regarding details about this program and that we would be receiving an updated report on a number of topics with regard to this program.

Date: 20 February 2012

Attending: Elizabeth Chong, Wayne Foreman, Robert Johnston, Tom Kiley, Thomas Speller, (Faculty Committee Members), Svetlana Filiatreau, (Eurasia Coordinator), Lisa O’Hara (International Student and Faculty Assistant), Talisha Mottinger (International Program’s Budget Analyst)

Agenda Items:

1) Svetlana Filiatreau provided the committee a written report and then explained the issues that the program had encountered and proposed program modifications.

   a) The curriculum is being modified such that students will begin their study at the Fairfax campus in the fall semester of the sophomore year instead of the second semester of their freshman year. English language competence requirements are being increased and academic standards upgraded.
b) Students will be admitted until March 15th for the following academic year. They will be expected to live in dorms, but will not pair up with other MSU students.

c) A minimum “intake” of ten students is targeted for Program Year 2012, but a minimum “intake” of seven students is actually necessary for the program to be financially justified. MSU is responsible for recruiting the students for this program, not GMU.

d) Six MSU university faculty members participated in the program last semester. While here, they live in one of the rental units at Masonvale. In the future, MSU faculty teaching in the program will be responsible for their federal income tax obligations incurred while teaching at the Fairfax campus.

Date: 2 April 2012

Attending: Wayne Froman, Robert Johnston, Tom Kiley, Thomas Speller, (Faculty Committee Members), Svetlana Filiatreau (Eurasia Coordinator)

Agenda Items:

1) The committee reviewed the note from Svetlana Filiatreau that there were not enough applicants by the 15 March 2012 deadline from Moscow State University students to justify beginning a new cohort of students for the fall 2012. The admission of new students into the program will be deferred. It is possible that students from MSU may decide to enter GMU’s ELI for a year in preparation for study at GMU. The committee will develop a report on what we have learned about this dual degree program.

2) The committee again discussed the need for protocols for future initiatives including the question of “what should be reviewed.”

3) The committee will request information on a possible new international graduate degree program in philosophy.

4) The committee will request an update on the Songdo, Korea initiative.

Date: 16 April 2012

Attending: Elizabeth Chong, Wayne Foreman, Robert Johnston, Tom Kiley, Thomas Speller, (Faculty Committee Members), Anne Schiller (Vice President for Global Strategies), Min Park (Executive Director for Proposed Korea Campus)
**Agenda Items:**

1) **Review of Draft Spring Semester Report for the Faculty Senate.** Elizabeth Chong agreed to make the discussed changes and send the draft out. Bob Johnston will add items for today’s meeting and then recirculate the draft.

2) **Moscow State University Dual Degree Program.** Svetlana Filiatreau has agreed to develop a draft report for the committee regarding this program.

3) **Songdo, Korea Initiative Update.** Min Park provided the committee a written update and answered questions. Major points:
   
a) The Songdo Global University Foundation was officially launched in March of this year.

b) The University has received additional information regarding operating costs for the campus.

c) In February of this year, the University submitted an application for the offering of its proposed program to the Ministry of Education in Korea. The review process will take about six months.

d) The University’s Board of Visitors will be asked to approve the establishment of *Mason Korea L.L.C.* at its May, 2012 meeting. *Mason Korea L.L.C.* will be the University’s legal entity for this initiative.

e) Assuming all of the necessary approvals, students might be admitted beginning with the fall semester of 2013.

4) The committee considered possible protocols for future initiatives, but decided not to adopt any at this stage.