

Minutes, European Studies Executive Committee, 02 November 2011 Approved

Present: Eric Hanley, Jana Krentz, Barbara Phipps, Dale Urie, Lorie Vanchena

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

After members introduced themselves, Vanchena discussed the “incubation” status of European Studies in the Center for Global & International Studies. She also reviewed the Program’s mission to “promote the interest and further research in European Studies among faculty, students, and staff at the University of Kansas” and the mandate from Associate Dean Marsha Haufler to establish a “new shape, presence, image, role on campus” for European Studies.

The Executive Committee (EC), appointed by Thomas Heilke, Director of CGIS as directed by Associate Dean Haufler, is charged with changing the by-laws 1) to reflect changes in European Studies governance and its relationship to and within CGIS, 2) to reflect the new EC structure, and 3) to define the process for recommending future coordinators.

Vanchena envisions the EC playing a valuable role in initiating and facilitating public programming and outreach activities, conducting curricular review and revision, developing co-curricular programming, identifying and developing grant proposals, and fundraising. The EC should also help promote the Program with the University and broader communities.

A current list of members, minutes from meetings, and relevant documents will be posted to the European Studies EC Blackboard site.

Updates

- Vanchena met with Heidi Hulse, Advising Specialist, Global and International Studies and European Studies, to discuss advising for EURS co-majors and minors. Hulse will continue to handle formal advising; Vanchena will support her efforts and mentor students.
- Vanchena is meeting or corresponding with all current EURS co-majors and minors (8) to get a sense of their interests and concerns and to gather input on ways to build a strong community of EURS students.
- Vanchena has met numerous times with Leslie von Holten, Outreach Coordinator for CGIS, to discuss programming for Spring 2012 and AY 2012-13.
- A roundtable discussion on the European Debt Crisis is planned for Thursday, November 17, 3:30 – 4:30, Alderson Auditorium. Moderator: Victor Bailey, Director of the Hall Center; panelists: Robert Rohrschneider, Political Science; John Keating, Economics; Stephanie Kelton, Economics, UMKC. Co-sponsors: CGIS, CREES, EURS, Hall Center for the Humanities, and European language departments.
- In February Vanchena will participate in K-12 outreach program, organized by Title VI centers, on UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- Other possibilities currently being explored: Lied Center performance by Austrian septet Mnozil Brass (March); History of Art and Spencer Museum of Art Vasari exhibition and international Italian sculpture conference (November 2012).

- Vanchena is having initial conversations with deans, associate deans, directors, chairs, faculty, and students to discuss possibilities for collaboration (curricular, outreach, study abroad, public programming, etc.)
- Vanchena has had preliminary discussions with Jessica Irving about European Studies Web site.
- Grants. Vanchena has discussed grant opportunities with LeaMarie Herron, Assistant Director/Grant Writer for CGIS. One goal: apply to be a European Union Center of Excellence in 3 years. Other possibilities: NEH Teacher Workshops, Digital Humanities grant, collaborative NSF or NEH grants.
- Curriculum. In Spring 2012 the EC will continue the discussion of EURS curriculum started in Spring 2011. Issues: experiential learning, identifying EURS courses and keeping online list up-to-date and accurate, exploring themes that can be highlighted in curriculum, bringing students into EURS co-major or minor at earlier stage/lower level, collaborating with CREES to integrate Europe into notion of what encompasses the continent (from the Atlantic to the Caucasus).
- Fundraising. Vanchena will be working with Thomas and CGIS for KU Endowment purposes.

The EC discussed ways that the Program could utilize and build on members' expertise. Phipps and Krentz have done extensive K-12 outreach, Krentz stressed the importance of LibGuides to the EURS curriculum, and Urie discussed her work on the EURS foundational course.

Vanchena asked the committee to consider 1) effective ways of establishing a network for sponsoring and co-sponsoring Europe-related activities on campus and in the community and 2) reasons for coming together as Europeanists.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.