Meeting Minutes

1. STUDY ABROAD:

Andrew Sobiesuo, Associate Provost and director of the Center for International Education, advised us to develop relations with a school on the east coast and on the west coast of Ireland. This in addition to the new relationship we have with Queen’s University, Belfast. These would be exchange programs; hopefully, we’ll work out arrangements in which students pay their home-institution costs.

We agreed that we’d pursue connections to Dublin City University and NUI Galway. Cara, who has contacts at Galway, will put out some feelers, while Joe does the same with DCU.

2. CURRICULUM:

We decided to pursue a minor called either Irish and Irish-American Studies or Irish and Irish Diaspora Studies. Minors typically are 18 hours—six courses of 3 hours each.

We agreed that we ought to create an introductory, inter-disciplinary course, something like Introduction to Irish Studies 2XX.

We agreed that at this point, creating a capstone course might prove difficult to staff; we discussed favorably the option of using a 3-hour independent study as a capstone.

We agreed we ought to try to give students the option to study of the Irish language. Staffing, obviously, will be a problem. Cara will look into on-line courses she’s seen introduced at ACÍS.

We agreed we’d strongly encourage students to study abroad, either with a full semester at a reciprocating university in Ireland, or with a summer travel course staffed by CoC faculty. Either way, the expectation would be that students would earn up to 6 hours of the minor in Ireland.

That would leave six further hours (in addition to the Intro and an independent study) for the students to complete the minor. Probably, we could launch the program by offering Irish Studies 2XX and another course each Fall semester; one course each Spring semester; and a regular study abroad opportunity in the summer.
3. FACULTY:

These CofC faculty were identified either as contacts or as people who might possibly teach in the program: Rob Taylor, Blake Stevens, Steve Rosenberg, Brenton Dimick (all from Music or Music History); Cara Delay and Phyllis Jestice (History), Joe Kelly and Trish Ward (English); Tom Kent (Management and Entrepreneurship); Bob Frash (Hospitality and Tourism Management); Rene Mueller (International Business); Moore Quinn (Anthropology); Mark Long (Political Science).

These faculty outside of CofC are likely candidates for some sort of involvement: Stephen White (Charleston Historical Society); David Gleeson (University of Northumbria); Patrick Wadden (Belmont Abbey); Joe Buggy (independent scholar).

4. OUTREACH

We agreed to organize a friendly reception (an idea suggested by Jerry Hale, dean of Humanities and Social Sciences) to allow interested members of the community meet and discuss the Program with faculty. We will try to coordinate such an event with CofC’s staging of Dancing at Lughnasá in February.

5. BRITISH STUDIES

We did not have time to discuss the suggestion that we somehow combine our efforts with British Studies, an idea endorsed by David Cohen (dean of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs) and Tim Carens (director of British Studies).

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