

Crossborder Project Meeting
June 20, 2004
Delta Halifax Hotel

Meeting Minutes

Attending:

George Criner
Gary Fairchild
Tim Taylor
Steve Grant
Doreen MacAulay
Shelley Rinehart
John Holden
Paul Thomassin
Peggy McKee

George's update on the year:

REP is an applied business program, few students come with an agricultural background. We started with university-to-university agreements, then we want to move to department to department agreements.

We now have general Agreements with Laval, New Brunswick, NSAC.

Summer institute plan is – 6 hrs credit, 3 weeks, all day.

Visa issues we think we can work out.

A few students from each university.

It will be based on the business simulation game. Teams of students playing.

EMDC will help find businesses for students to work out a problem and then help evaluate students.

Possibility of NAFTA grants.

Only 1% of Maine students go abroad, so this is a good compromise.

George plans to visit high schools, get photos and bullet points from other schools to get students interested.

John H. spoke about internships:

He met with Dalhousie about coop programs

Dalhousie has 2 program directors finding positions for students.

They had 7 students interested in Maine, MITC sent students' resumes to firms – this is a good example of how it could work.

Timing with NEAR project of EMDC, provided a concrete example, networking with economic development groups in NS and NB.

It has been hard to explain what we want to do with internships to firms, but the summer institute is easy to grasp for industry, and it has received significant interest.

Easier to get firms interested in summer institute – they want to be involved.

Internship link on website is something we are developing. We want to show what each school would recommend for students – e.g. spring semester study, then summer internship.

Shelley – SJ campus is starting a study abroad program for undergrads, their goal is 25% of students.

Exchange programs are becoming more popular at St. John.

Study term would fit with semester in Maine. There is some funding available for domestic students. What about international students? Possible visa issues.

Historically UNB has interest in exchange programs

Not much interest in students going to Maine, however.

Paul T., McGill has an active program with Univ. in France.

Students will go to France.

Coop programs at McGill not as organized as at UNB. But do have work experience programs, with a coordinator, and a written contract. There is a seminar course following the internship for a full semester.

There is a difference in credit hours. UNB gives 3 credit hours for coop, can build up to a one-term course for credit. UMaine gives 6 hours credit for a semester internship.

There is a different market for students going to Europe or far away than for those who might want to go to Maine. Maine would be a first step, for students who have never travelled.

When students come back to talk it up, it catches on.

This could be a selling point for funding – these would be first generation college students, a different market, those who would otherwise not travel.

Paul – whose tuition would a visiting student pay?

If at UMaine, would pay one and a half of in-state tuition.

UNB has reciprocal agreement with UM, but it is blocked because no Maine students are going there.

Summer institute would be an attraction. We need to make it an elite program.

Paul T. – McGill students going to France pay McGill tuition because of agreements with French universities,

An issue to work out with the summer institute is how to make it so students can pay their own tuition.

Conclusion on internships – we will add info to the website. We can continue with placement help – if a student is interested in internships, we can circulate resumes.

Shelley – SJ can do the same. Can continue this with participating universities.

Would work through coop coordinator, and the board of trade.
SJ typically has more jobs than students.

Department to Department recommended courses:

These are courses that are unique, recommended.

We came up with idea of taking different courses while at other schools instead of trying to fill the same ones offered at other schools. It makes sense to use their strengths.

George:

UMaine courses: REP has a lot of resource related courses, e.g. GIS course tying in to economic analysis.

Also, waste management class.

Environmental compliance course, and equine business management.

We should set up a link to syllabi of these courses on our website.

George: Laval is a traditional agricultural econ department, not much community development.

They have a full course on grocery distribution and marketing.

They have the depth and breadth in traditional ag. econ.

Steve:

Fredericton has three international programs, 2 of them undergrad.

Trinidad, Cairo, and MBA program in Poland. New one coming in Ukraine and Kiev. –

They are MBA programs.

Have students coming to Fredericton, few going there.

Elective courses – there is an internship course option.

Independent study option courses for each discipline area. – marketing, finance, etc.

Export marketing program: pairing team of students with an organization that wants to export. Students develop a plan for them, go on a mission. This has been located in New England.

Entrepreneurship concentration, not a major yet. About 8 courses relevant to entrepreneurship.

Steve is about to end his associate dean job, go back to professor.

Paul Thomassin:

International activities at McGill:

13 week semester in Barbados with McGill professors, at a research facility there. In the fall semester.

One week course in winter in Barbados. Focus is on development issues, resources.

Also a 13 week course in Africa, travel to a variety of countries, professors travel with them, variety of courses incorporated.

Similar program in Panama. Environmental work. Both science and social science students.

McGill has enrollment of 30-35,000 students.

MacDonald campus is 1000 students.

Courses are open to all students.

A Maine student could do these programs. Could do a year at McGill.

Faculty go for 2-3 weeks or for 8 weeks. Tend to be project focuses.

University-wide, not any particular program.

Have minor in entrepreneurship in dept. – 18 credits, 6 courses.

Also entrepreneurship program in faculty of management.

Unique courses – they are a small dept. cover a base of ag. econ.

They are more environmental econ. – climate change, etc.

There is a capstone course, seminar in ag.econ., how to write proposal, undertake empirical research project, collect data, analyze and present. In the fall.

Also a good farm business mgmt. A Core course, different from the Laval course.

McGill students are 60% francophone. Campus is west of Montreal. Large in natural resources and sciences.

Shelley –

China is 2 plus 2 program. Chinese students who come to SJ to complete. Some Canadian students go there in summer, but typically not during school year. SJ instructors are going to China to instruct in English.

Others programs under discussion in Dubai and India. They are not close to complete yet.

Offer language in summer – ESL institute. Also offered non credit courses in Arabic, Mandarin, Spanish.

E business and electronic commerce. Picks one industry per year.

Course that integrates SAP (enterprise integration software into courses such as Industry impact of E-commerce.

International comparative management course – a draw for students. Focus on 10 or so countries, divide into country groups.

Moving into health and health science focuses.

New dean is a geographer.

Focus on SJ moving from industry to a technology based city. – a project.

Have applied management programs with community colleges. Defined by the industry and what they are looking for.

John –

In addition to courses that others have, clearly a benefit. Also if there are areas of expertise that are unique. E.g. the applied focus of SJ. Could also pull in some of these other smaller universities in addition.

George – future:

Will get write ups of programs. We'll work on getting more students into the pipeline.

Possibility of private funding for summer institute.

CEDA – community economic development agency – funds are a possibility (Shelley)

ACOA (Atlantic Canada opportunities) funding. Banks. Create a business plan for the institute with first two years subsidized.

John – need a business plan of how institute will work. Has meeting late August, would like to present plan.

Discussion of Institute:

Tim – what would it take for 2 half days of faculty teaching? Shelley: rate of 1000 a day.

Paul - we charge 1000 US a day.

Shelley – would be run off-book. Would do an assessment of credentials of teachers and then give credit.

John – could it be run through Jake Ward, department of Industrial Cooperation?

George – We could build it in as rotating so that gov't can fund it.

Doreen – what if set up each province with separate budgets?

Or done as two administrative agencies. One US, one Canadian.

Shelley – may be better to run it through economic development agencies.

Could present it as an industry that sponsors a team of students. Provides room and board.

Label it for the resume, so it is more than credit hours.

Gary – idea of setting up a foundation that people could contribute to.

George and John can think up a business plan. Steve and Shelley can help write it up.

Can use a lot of the proposal, just put it in business plan form.

Send info on summer institute to Paul.

Get student input on the logistics of the institute.

Gary – What are teacher needs? 3-4 faculty could be there for the whole 3 weeks. Then others pop in and out. Beauty is the different perspective of the faculty. Business and also some government type people. Could be an informal networking of students looking for jobs.

Between junior and senior year – they return and talk it up.