Minutes from the Committee for Internationalisation
2016 12 02

Delegates present:  Helén Anderson, Chairperson
                  Soniya Billore, FEH
                  Peter Gierow, FHL
                  Emil Tyberg, FHL
                  Samir Khoshaba, FTK
                  Stefan Lund, NLU
                  Andreas Eklund, representative for doctoral students
                  Nathalie Gunnarsson, representative for
                  Linnéstudenterna

Others present:    Camilla Lundqvist, Secretary
                  Richard Bucksch, Office of External Relations
                  Ann-Charlotte Larsson
                  Yael Tågerud (English for managers)
                  Åsa Wågman (International Student Barometer 2015)

Delegates not present:  Jonas Ewald, FSV
                        Rebecca Karlsson, representative for Linnéstudenterna

Information from the Vice-Rector

New Vice-Rector
Helén introduced Ann-Charlotte Larsson, who will be the new Vice-Rector, responsible for the field of internationalisation and innovation from January 1, 2017. Ann-Charlotte will work 60% as Vice-Rector for internationalisation and innovation.

Term of office for committee members
The term of office for the committee members will finish at the end of 2016. Helén will ask Thorbjörn Nilsson (UK) to prolong the term one year for continuity.

Scholars at Risk
Lnu’s application to Scholars at Risk to become a member will be submitted before Christmas. Lena Kulmala (ER) is the contact person at Lnu.

Budget
The Committee’s budget for 2017 will be discussed and decided on at the next meeting on December 19.
English for Managers

Yael Tågerud

The course English for managers was presented as well as other languages courses offered to Lnu employees. A discussion about challenges how to get managers to sign up for the course followed the presentation, as well a general discussion about welcoming international staff. The responsibility to welcome and introduce newly international employees needs to be divided between faculty colleagues, administrators and managers; and there should be identified persons (mentors) and dedicated resources for this. Yael also pointed out the importance of supporting the development of an intercultural mindset.

International Student Barometer 2015

Åsa Wågman

This is an annual study carried out by i-Graduate. It’s a national and global benchmark regarding arrival, learning, living, support, application, recommendation and choice of institution for international students.

Åsa presented the results from 2015, please see attachment I. A short summary of the results, please see attachment II. At Lnu the survey was sent out to 1275 students and the response rate was 34%. There we too few Swedish institutions participating in the study 2015, therefore there are no national comparisons, only a European and a global comparison. There are some methodological problems to be aware of when interpreting the result, e.g. low answering rate, failure analysis (bortfallsanalys), a few percentages up or down make big difference in ranking score, therefore the focus should be on results and not ranking.

Commissioned by and based on the results of the ISB study there has been an in-depth study with focus on perceived shortcomings and knowledge and learning. Two study programmes each from the School of Business and Economics and the Faculty of Technology have been selected and interviews have been done with focus groups of 5-7 students and programme coordinators. The Quality Council will come back after the result of the in-depth study is analysed.

After the presentation, there was a discussion on student surveys in general. And, the need to integrate Swedish and international students in surveys at Lnu, in Linnébarometern for example.

Feedback from Faculty Dialogues

Faculty of Arts and Humanities (FKH)

Andreas and Peter

Participants from FKH:
Anders Åberg, Head of department
Joakim Nilsson, Administrative Director
Emil Tyberg, Strategic Internationalisation Coordinator
Cecilia Hartwich, Coordinator of International Possibilities
Issues addressed:

- Gap between the Committee and the operational level, wishes that the Committee would have an operative function as well.
- Challenges to increase student mobility because of the number of students studying free standing courses.
- Unclear who does what administratively – Quality Council, International Office, External Relations. On operational level, there are also different working groups/networks that need to be coordinated since a lot of their work overlap.
- Academics and administrators need to work together, also need the academic input in administrative issues, even though the administration knows how to solve the issues technically.
- Would like to see more integration between research and education.
- Satisfied with the allocation of strategic funds, and that the follow-up focuses on quality instead of numbers.
- Practical issues that needs to be addressed centrally e.g. grading scale.

Faculty of Technology (FTK)

Emil and Stefan
Participants from FTK:
Marcus Nilsson, Head of department
Elena Vinci-Hytter, Senior Internationalisation Officer
Katarina Rönndahl, International Coordinator

Issues addressed:

- International students are important for the faculty.
- Challenge to get everyone involved, seen as an add-on. E.g. dialogues with programme coordinators about mobility windows, positive feedback but lack time and resources.
- Wishes to have more centralized control in evaluation and follow-up, e.g. quality goals, how to use strategic funds, indicators. Today the strategic funds are allocated to the departments without any terms/conditions.

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences (FHL)

Andreas
Participants:
Ian Nicholls, Dean
David Brunt, Pro-Dean
Ulla Kerren, Faculty Coordinator
Per Lundberg, International Coordinator
Peter Gierow, Head of department

Issues addressed:

- Definition of internationalisation at Lnu? Today based on economic terms compared to a more holistic approach.
• Practical issues that needs to be addressed/coordinated centrally e.g. recruitment, admission, visa, communication, organisation, website, welcoming of international staff and their partners.
• Too many agreements, the faculty wishes to focus on a few strategic key partners.
• Challenges to internationalise their professional education and training programmes, e.g. nursing, but are active in international student placement training (VFU).

Other Questions
The first Committee meeting in 2017 will be decided after a Doodle inquiry.

Next meeting
December 19 at 12:00-14:30 in Bruunska24, Kalmar (including lunch)