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Building Civil Society Capacity for Poverty Reduction - Advisory Council

Poverty Reduction Advisory Council

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Building Civil Society Capacity for Poverty Reduction
Advisory Council

Minutes from Meeting
February 14, 2012 – Rubinoff Boardroom, Huron University College

Present: T. Fulton (Chair), I. Ajiferuke, D. Cummings, D. Dawson, B. Dodson, A. Larkin, M. Katsivo,
P. Mackay, M. Blagrove, A. Vainio-Mattila (Skype), C. Phillips (Skype), J. Bennett (minutes)
Regrets: B. Gough, C. Iwasiw, N. Bradford, J. Malone

1. Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:05pm and welcomed the Advisory Council members to the meeting. The Chair also welcomed Allyson Larkin and Mark Blagrove to the Advisory Council.

2. Approval of the March 17, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

3. Annual Progress Report

A. Vainio- Mattila reviewed key results of the project as outlined in the May 2011 Progress Report as well as key results between May 2011 and February 2012:

- University of Dar es Salam 50th Anniversary celebrations took place in October 2011. Dr. Benedict Mongula and Mr. Claudius Ngindo were active in the celebrations and promoting the project during this time.
- Capacity development:
 - A curriculum review is taking place as the first students began studying in the new streams, October 2011.
 - A core group of faculty has completed pedagogical training and training is planned to continue with colleagues in Tanzania in March 2012.
 - Three MA students have been supported and one Ph.D. student has participated in an exchange between Huron and UDSM.
- Information resources and services development:
 - This result to be addressed by P. MacKay however a leaky roof in the IDS Resource Centre was noted as a roadblock. Only 1% of the project budget is allocated to infrastructure so IDS is currently working with UDSM to find a solution.
- Outreach:
 - C. Phillips to address the Monduli Pilot.
- Policy:
 - Students for Development have supported 4 students and 2 HUC exchange students have participated in the project.

4. Monduli Report

C. Phillips discussed the following:

- The Village Information Officer Log which includes reported activities from the past year (by 12 village officers from six pilot villages).
- Engaging each homestead in village meetings to strengthen the existing process.
- Developing positions with council to be accountable and to provide support.

- Income generation – cell phones, solar lights.

The Advisory Council thanked C. Phillips for her comprehensive report.

5. Pedagogical Training in Tanzania

D. Dawson presented details on the training completed in Tanzania (June/July, 2011) including the following:

- D. Dawson and Mike Atkinson (Western) led/participated in best practices workshops, a three day instructional skills workshop (“ISW”), a five day facilitator development workshop(“FDW”), policy forum, and a class lecture in education (attended by 1400 students).
- ISW is a certificate program offered in 40 countries that offers participants a worldwide network. It is highly participative and includes 24 hours of instruction and three mini lessons.
- FDW allowed participants to develop skills as ISW facilitators and create lesson plans that could be used in their own ISW sessions. Participants received certificates upon completion and are now qualified to facilitate the ISW workshops.

6. December 2011 Visit

P. MacKay discussed her December, 2011 visit:

- Team members met to discuss upcoming project activities, including pedagogical training.
- Suitcases of books were brought for the IDS resource centre.
- There is an interest in partnering with the public library in Bagamoyo for outreach activities, and lectures/workshops with invited attendees.
- A meeting took place in Bagamoyo with the community development office to discuss the pilot concept.
- A research strategies presentation was given to 65 students. Students were provided with a written guide.

The possibility of planning a multidisciplinary conference to coincide with the end of the project was discussed with the Advisory Council.

7. Round Table

- A question was asked regarding future collaborations with larger universities in the region to keep the project going. It was noted that personal relationships may be lost if the project transitioned to a bigger scale. There are certain models of the project that can be discussed with potential partners. Students for Development will continue to 2014 and the HUC/UDSM will be ongoing.
- It was asked if gender issues were included in the pedagogical training. D. Dawson advised that this was discussed in facilitator workshops.
- The Chair raised a question regarding the mid-project review. A. Vainio-Mattila advised there was a visit from CIDA planned at the end of February and an AUCC officer had visits to projects sites planned for the beginning of March. A. Vainio-Mattila informed the advisory council she is waiting on direction for closing the project.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm.