President’s Quality of Life Committee  
Meeting Minutes for  
Thursday, October 24th, 2013  
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room, 7th floor of Crawford Building

In Attendance: Monica Baloga (Chair), Chase Brown, Catherine Cook, Jessica Cushman, Cheryl Davis, Carla Deras, Ulreen Jones, Eric Kledzik, Jackie Lingner, Daniel Otero, Dylan Polasko, Jon Shenker, Sharon Stanfield, Cookie Young

Guests: Mary Beth Kenkel, Judith Brooke

Absent: Cat Carnley, Bill Macom, Vitalis Okafor, Kristi Van Sickle

I. Approval of September 26, 2013 meeting minutes  
The minutes were unanimously approved with no corrections or additions.

II. Introduction of Guest Speakers: Dr. Mary Beth Kenkel and Ms. Judith Brooke  
Prior to addressing the meeting agenda topic on Internationalization, the Chair introduced the two guest speakers and their relation to international efforts on campus. Dr. Mary Beth Kenkel, Dean of COPLA, has been the Chair of the Internationalizing the Campus Committee (ICC) since its inception four and a half years ago. Ms. Judith Brooke is the Director of the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS).

III. Agenda Topic: Internationalization: Community Focus  
Dr. Kenkel presented information about the ICC and the committee’s work since its inception. The ICC is currently in its 5th year of operation as a President’s Task Force Committee. In the first year, the committee performed audit of all international activities on campus. This included offices and organizations dedicated to international issues, international events, courses that incorporate international topics, etc. Realizing that internationalization required more than just having a large number of international students on campus, the committee also defined a set of global competencies that they hoped would be integrated within the culture of Florida Tech. In the following years, the committee focused on implementing ideas that arose as a result of the audit. These have included staff training, faculty discussion luncheons, and student-led activities. The committee also proposed a couple of initiatives for integrating global learning outcomes within academic programs. Because our next Quality Enhancement Plan for accreditation is due in early 2015, these ideas have been handed to the QEP Coordinator as possible endeavors. Upon further discussion with QOL members, Dr. Kenkel agreed that more work needs to be done to educate students, faculty, and staff and to determine how to get beyond language and cultural barriers that may hamper more meaningful interactions. One QOL committee member, who happens to be international, confirmed that the language barrier can be intimidating but stressed that we should continue to send the message that it is okay to ask for clarification when something is not initially understood. Lastly, Dean Kenkel told the QOL committee of the proposal for a Center for Global Engagement.
Ms. Brooke commented on the number of initiatives hosted by her office to foster interactions between international and domestic students and to encourage the involvement of, and participation from, the Melbourne community. At the heart of it is the International Festival, held each spring for the last eight years. At this event, campus and Brevard county organizations come together and participate by setting up cultural exhibitions, providing live entertainment in the form of music, dancing or other activities, and of course, serving food that is common to their regions. As a means of providing further out-reach to the local community, Ms. Brooke also told the committee about the International Friendship Program, whereby faculty, staff, and members of the Melbourne community would volunteer to host international students during seasonal holidays or other events. Although this program is active, it was suggested that the Office of External Relations may be able to assist with making more community connections.

After Dean Kenkel and Ms. Brooke completed their presentations, one committee member suggested that more common ground and interests should be explored between international and domestic students in order to encourage further interactions. Following the success of our Florida Tech football players introducing American football to international students, one possible common area could be in intramural athletics, particularly soccer. This was met with some enthusiasm among the committee members and will be an idea to explore.

IV. Action Items
There are no action items assigned.

V. Next meeting: Thursday, November 21st, 2013 (changed to Tuesday, November 19th)
   Topic: Conference Center

Respectfully submitted,
Monica H. Baloga, Chair
November 18, 2013