

University Council for International Affairs (UCIA)  
January 4, 2006  
325 Burruss Hall  
10:30 – 12:00 noon

*Present:*

John Albano, Associate Director, Scholarships and Financial Aid (for Barry Simmons)  
Andrew Becker, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature  
Michael Bertelsen, Assoc. Director OIRED and Assoc. Dean CALS  
Cynthia Bonner, Chief of Staff, Division of Student Affairs  
Debbie Day, Alumni Relations  
S.K. De Datta, Assoc. Provost for International Affairs and Director, OIRED  
John Dooley, Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs  
Monika Gibson, Director of Student Services, Graduate School Student Services  
Valerie Hardcastle, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences  
Paul Hover, Library Systems  
Mary Marchant, Assoc. Dean and Director of Academic Programs, CALS  
Chad Miller, Economic Development Specialist/Int'l Programs, Economic Development  
Miriam Rich, Communications Coordinator, OIRED  
Nicole Sanderlin, Graduate Assistant, Outreach & International Affairs  
Stephen Skripak, Interim Assoc. Dean of Graduate and Int'l Programs, Dean of Business  
Judy Snoke, Director, English Language Institute

*Welcome:*

Andrew Becker welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes from 12.07.2006 had been previously distributed electronically. These **minutes were approved.**

*Information Items:*

- 1.) Steven Duke informed members that the **Studio Abroad** website/database was one to two weeks away from being fully operational. He will give a demonstration of Studio Abroad during the next UCIA meeting. January 19<sup>th</sup> he will host an information session for faculty and staff members who will be using the system. Eventually, Studio Abroad will be linked to the Banner system and then the information will also be shared with Alumni Relations to record which Hokies have traveled abroad.
- 2.) Steven Duke relayed Kay Heidbreder's concerns regarding the language used in the "penalties" section of the **Allergy and Dietary Needs Form**. Steven will meet with her and incorporate her suggestions into another draft which he will then re-submit to the UCIA Committee for review and approval.
- 3.) Steven Duke issued a **handout summarizing the education abroad programs from 2005-2006 and the projected ones for 2006-2007**. The current challenge is to find out

about all short-term groups who are traveling abroad. They must be made aware of the policies and that way the Education Abroad Office can record more accurate statistics. Faculty led programs have a huge impact on the number of students who participate in education abroad programs and VT would like to get more faculty members involved. The target growth per year is ten percent.

4.) John Dooley requested that Steven Duke hold an introductory information seminar regarding education abroad for faculty led programs. This would serve to clarify the process and generate more interest among faculty members.

5.) John Dooley discussed the progress of the **International Strategic Plan** and **reporting to the BOV**. UCIA is accountable for its implementation and needs to devote the next four meetings to see how we are measuring up in comparison to the proposed metrics. He suggested four parts:

- a) Part I: International Support Services (Gibson, Beisecker, Berkley-Coates) February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- b) Part II: Undergraduate Education (Duke, Shryock, Becker, Daniel) March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- c) Part III: Graduate Education (Gibson, Berkley-Coates, and others) April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- d) Part IV: Research (Bertelsen and others) May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

The Virginia Tech Administration is working with the BOV to create a University Scorecard to show “leading metrics.” International Objectives is one of those metrics. Under that will fall the number of students participating in education abroad programs. We need to determine what meets the qualifications of a “program.” VT is currently grossly under representing the number of students participating. Currently, we link an education abroad experience to a credit bearing experience. We need to reexamine this and also develop a more sophisticated method to collect accurate data. For the next meeting John asked Valerie Hardcastle to work on editing the forms so that a check box is there to capture if faculty are participating in international activities. Additionally, she is to collaborate with Mary Marchant and Mike Bertelsen and create some suggestions on what will be the base guidelines for establishing what can be considered an international activity for faculty and staff.

6.) S.K. De Datta updated members on the **International and Regional Strategies** progress. Updates include:

- a) CESA: Annette Markham was hired as a consultant to help with policy issues.
- b) Caribbean Center for Education and Research (CCER): we have requested help from Ted Kheel and Frank Rainieri in developing better facilities. 11 students confirmed for the Spring 2007 programs. Heyddy Pichardo is proving to be an outstanding resource.
- c) India Initiative: Lots of progress including a joint degree initiative. Arun Vora has been hired as a consultant for the next six months to help implement an operational strategy. More updates to follow in the next meeting.
- d) Mexico: Collaboration is progressing with Monterrey Tech. A trip with S.K.,

John Dooley, and Antonio Nieto is being planned. More information will be available by the next meeting.

e) Africa: Initially branching into South Africa. Interest has been great and their response is very supportive. We have signed an MOU and are awaiting their signature.

f) Egypt: The educational collaboration is with the Arab Academy of Science and Technology. Currently 35 students are involved. A team consisting of John Dooley, Karen DePauw, Glenda Scales and Sedki Riad is on its way to Egypt to explore the possibility of expanding the program with support from the Ministry of Education.

7.) College updates concerning international programs were presented by various college representatives:

a) Mike Bertelsen informed members that the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences was now involved in over 71 countries. The College of Natural Resources is exploring numerous projects including: a Columbia project, An IQC with OIRED, Nepal project, and three more education abroad programs.

b) Cynthia Bonner informed members that in 2007 there will be an RA exchange between VT and Monterrey Tech. John Dooley asked that the exchange student speak with UCIA near the end of their stay in April. Cynthia also mentioned that about twelve RAs and Student Government Leaders went to Monterrey Tech for a Student Leadership Program.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05

Minutes submitted by Sarah Mitchem