

University Council for International Affairs (UCIA)

February 1, 2007

325 Burruss Hall

10:30 – 12:00 noon

Present:

Andrew Becker, Chair of UCIA, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature

Michael Bertelsen, Assoc. Director OIRED and Assoc. Dean CALS

S.K. De Datta, Assoc. Provost for International Affairs and Director, OIRED

Steve Duke, Assistant Program Director, Education Abroad

Gene Egger, Professor/Director Special Programs Architecture

Monika Gibson, Director, Graduate School Student Services

Paul Hover, Library Systems

Mary Marchant, Assoc. Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Lance Matheson, Business Information Technology

Miriam Rich, Communications Coordinator, OIRED

Nicole Sanderlin, Graduate Student, Public & International Affairs

Barry Simmons, Director, Scholarships & Financial Aid

Stephen Skripak, Interim Assoc. Dean of Graduate and Int'l Programs, Dean of Business

Richard Shryock, Assoc. Professor, Foreign Languages and Literature

Jan Wilson for Debbie Day, Alumni Relations

Welcome:

1) Andrew Becker welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes from October 5, 2006 had been previously distributed electronically. These **minutes were approved**.

2) Two Volunteers are needed to serve on the Awards Committee. Richard Shryock has committed and one other person is needed.

Information Items:

(1) Currently John Dooley is in Egypt with Karen DePauw and Glenda Scales. They are working to expand the **VT-Egypt collaboration** into a dual-degree program. The government of Egypt would like to expand the program nationwide to include multiple partners. Before the group left they had a meeting to discuss possible challenges that could come up.

SK De Datta gave an update regarding the **India and Mexico Initiatives**. The University Strategic Plan update gave charges by 2011 to have five international Centers. Currently there is one in Europe (CESA), and a second in Punta Cana (Caribbean Center). It looks like the Latin America Center will be in Mexico. There is a strong collaboration there thanks to Monterey Tech – similar to the university here. They have the best business school in Mexico.

The **CONACYT will consider** funding the initiative. The initial budget request was \$3 million. John Dooley, SK De Datta and Antonio Nieto are traveling to Guanajuato where they will meet with the former governor, Juan Carlos Romero Hicks who is now head of CONACYT (the National Science Foundation equivalent in Mexico) . The tentative plan is to have a base center at Guanajuato and branch out from there.

The **Virginia Tech – India Initiative** began when a group from Virginia Tech went to India in April 2006. Dooley led a second group in October 2006. President Steger feels VT should have a Center in India. There is a strong desire there to promote technologies. The focus will be hi-tech: nano-science and engineering, nano-biotech, biotech, and automotive engineering. This Initiative will be collaboration between Universities and the private sector.

A third group headed by John Dooley is going to **India in early March 2007**. The first **Advisory Committee meeting** will be held on March 5, 2007 in Chennai. A governance system will be decided on. Arun Vora has been hired as a consultant to help with this Initiative. He is the former CEO for Tata-BP Solar.

(2) Monika Gibson and Kim Beisecker gave an **International Strategic Plan status update on International Support Services**. They addressed strategic goals 8-12. They would like the committee to help identify initiatives throughout the university. The presentation highlighted newly developed or revised programs that are in direct relation to the Strategic Plan.

Jerry Berkley-Coats informed the committee that **immigration fees are set to double**. He is also concerned about some exploitation of people on H1 Visas by their departments.

It was also noted that the law says that if you want to invite an **international visitor they have to file an income tax return**. This information needs to be packaged in such a way that it can become widely known. All people with F and J visas are required to file tax returns whether they are employed or not. NRAware software can help and is supplied by the Cranwell Center at a cost of \$5 per student.

SK De Datta mentioned that there are many international alumni who may share their good fortune with Virginia Tech as it has happened in the Ohio State and other Universities in India. This will not happen unless they have a good experience at VT.

(3) Jerry Via and Valerie Hardcastle reported on **international objectives in the Colleges of Science and Liberal Arts and Human Sciences**, respectively. Dr. Via gave the College of Science's Vision and Engagement Statements. Also, there will be a program at Caribbean Center with the College of Science in the fall.

Dr. Hardcastle talked about where the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences is now and where they would like to be in 5 +/- years. All of the colleges departments have

some form of a study abroad program. Their plans include: How to fund the Foreign Languages and Literature (FLL) role in the Strategic Plan. They would like to increase the undergraduate study abroad piece to 50%. In program development they would like to add a minor in Caribbean Studies.

(4) Paul Hover gave a **Library College update** concerning international programs, citing the International Students Reception given in the Fall Semester, the international collections activities of College Librarians, studies of international graduate student and cross-cultural information seeking behavior, and the ongoing work and availability of a number of multilingual librarians handling foreign language resources. He also mentioned the participation of librarians on national level committees such as the newly hired Director for Library Research and Instructional Services, Lesley Moyo, who is Chair of the ACRL International Relations Committee. In order to increase international activities, the Library is looking into the possibility of participating in the American Library Association's Sister Library project.

(5) Valerie Hardcastle, Mike Bertelsen and Mary Marchant reported on the development of guidelines for what can be considered **international experience for Faculty/Staff**. They have developed a scale to measure the quality of international engagement. There are three tiers/levels – high, medium and low. The key factor in deciding which tier someone belongs in is Leadership.

It was suggested that perhaps the term “low” might be changed and that there is a “No” group. Mentoring will help to move up levels. Each department would report to the deans with finer details about who is a PI and helping with Study Abroad. There would be an International Representative in each college and each department would have a liaison person.

Questions about this will be addressed at the beginning of the next meeting.

(6) Steven Duke gave a demonstration of the new data system that Study Abroad is in the process of implementing. The system is called **Studio Abroad**. There is an administrative side and a student side to the system. Primarily the Study Abroad office will have access, but administrative access can be granted to faculty members for specific programs. Steve is willing to come to any department or group of faculty to assist in how to use Studio Abroad. The goal is that by the Spring of next year students will be able to apply and track their progress online.

Residual issues will be addressed at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM
Minutes submitted by Tiffany Brown.