

## Minutes

University Council for International Affairs (UCIA)

February 2, 2006

325 Burruss Hall

10:30 – 12:00 noon

Present:

Andrew Becker, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

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

Cynthia Bonner, Lecturer Admin, VP Student Affairs

Jeri Childers, Director Educational Conferences - CEU

Jack Davis, Chair of UCIA, College of Architecture and Urban Studies

Debbie Day, Alumni Relations

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

John Dooley, Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs

Steve Duke, Assistant Program Director, Education Abroad

Gene Egger, Professor/Director Special Programs Architecture

John Hess, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Tamara Kennelly, Library Systems

Susan Magliaro, Director, School of Education

Tarun Sen, Associate Dean, College of Business

Judith Shrum, Foreign Languages

Richard Shryock, Associate Professor, Foreign Languages

Judy Snoke, Director Educational Conferences - CEU

Welcome

1. Jack Davis informed everyone that George Crofts, Associate Dean, College of Science, has retired. The minutes from December 1, 2005 had been previously distributed electronically. These **minutes were approved.**
2. John Dooley addressed the group first due to his obligation to attend the Virginia Tech new brand ceremony. He distributed a fact sheet regarding the **ACC Faculty Collaboration.** Each institution is allowed to have one faculty member participate; if each institution does not submit a candidate then other institutions may be able to send more than one person. There are two study abroad programs which offer opportunities Steven Duke can communicate as their Virginia Tech course equivalency is established. These programs are fully funded so there is no cost to the faculty. Collaboration about the project is continuing and the final dates have not been confirmed. This fall another **ACC International Conference** will be hosted at Duke University; information will be distributed as it becomes available. John asked Steven if there is an agenda on how the \$5000 will be distributed.
3. Steven Duke responded that a committee is working on developing those regulations.

4. John Dooley discussed the previous week's **International Faculty Development Program**. He distributed a flyer displaying the names of the group members. Each college has a participant. There will be an intensive May 17 through 28 meeting at Riva. Part of the experience there is that faculty members will work with an academic partner in Europe to develop a research, outreach, or education collaboration that will be followed through in the next academic year. Involved members are beginning to investigate where the 2007 location will be held.
5. Gene Egger asked if there was any report being created from last year's group since he feels it would be beneficial in helping to keep the Deans interested.
6. John Dooley stated that the previous group created a Power Point presentation. Each of the participants from the respective colleges has been charged with sitting down with the Dean and talking about their project. There will also be a meeting in late February to continue to monitor their progress toward their goals and objectives. They will also be featured prominently in this year's Outreach Now Publication.
7. S.K. De Datta stated that Nicole Sanderlin can share the Power Point presentation. She can post it on a website and share the link.
8. Jack Davis brought up the **International Awards Announcement**. The procedure is essentially the same as last year. He distributed a flyer containing the awards criteria and asked for any suggestions. Miriam Rich asked him earlier if there was any award specifically for staff members. The concern is that due to the different nature between faculty and staff positions it might not be fair to include them in same competitive pool. The dossiers are incomparable since each group performs drastically different functions which are determined by their positions. It enables faculty members to compete in some areas from which staff members are prevented due to the nature of their jobs.
9. S.K. De Datta stated that if a staff award is created for the Outreach Awards it also needs to be offered for International Affairs since the two need to remain parallel.
10. Judy Snoke offered her support for the creation of a purely staff award. However, she suggested not removing that terminology from the present regulations (which lists the awards as open to faculty and staff) until the award is ready.
11. John Dooley stated that it is unrealistic to think a staff award could be offered in 2006 due to the logistics of the fiscal year cycle.
12. Sue Magliaro brought up the fact that all staff awards are handled by the President's Office. Therefore it would need to be addressed by them. She will contact them and look into the option of them offering an award purely for staff members.
13. S.K. De Datta added that the terminology should be changed to "International Service Award" as it is more appropriate.

14. Jack Davis asked John Dooley to also look into the staff award being created. Dr. Dooley agreed to do so.
15. Jack Davis then asked for four **volunteers to review nominations for the awards**. He will recruit one of the previous recipients to be the fifth member on the panel. He explained that almost all the details will be worked out by e-mail. Sarah Mitchem will put together packages containing the nominees' information and send one to each of the selection committee members. The members will meet once for approximately an hour and a half to discuss their opinions. Deadlines for the nominations were previously March 18<sup>th</sup>, but it will be extended until April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The discussion meeting would take place at the end of April.
16. **Andrew Becker, Miriam Rich, and Tarun Sen** offered to volunteer on the committee with **Jack Davis** and one of the **previous recipients** of the award.
17. Jeri Childers brought up the Wednesday September 27, 2006, signature **Outreach Now** event. She distributed an informational flyer. The proposed design of the event entails:
- Morning pre-conference workshop for P & T members and selected others
  - Opening session with keynote speaker, Mr. Sterling Speirn, President and CEO, Kellogg Foundation
  - Breakout sessions (7-8) featuring Virginia Tech faculty (assumes a call for paper process and juried panel)
  - Awards
  - Exhibits
  - Reception
- The event is hoping to draw at least 250 people in order to match last year's turnout. They also wish to increase the exhibit area. They will be asking for nominations of Virginia Tech faculty members to speak at the event. The keynote speaker has not issued a written acceptance yet; but they do not anticipate a problem and expect the date to be firm.
18. S. K. De Datta offered to re-schedule the **Study Abroad Fair** to avoid scheduling conflicts for Virginia Tech faculty members. Last year there were complaints that because the two events were held on the same date faculty members faced scheduling conflicts. He offered to hold the Study Abroad Fair on either Tuesday or Thursday of that week.
19. John Hess said that would be beneficial because it alleviates the scheduling conflicts while at the same time allowing each event to draw attention to the other.
20. Jeri Childers asked for suggestions on when to issue a call for papers from the Virginia Tec faculty members. John Hess mentioned that by doing so immediately it will keep the faculty thinking about it and give them plenty of time to prepare. Jeri agreed.

21. S. K. De Datta reviewed the developments with the **Punta Cana** initiative. There has been tremendous progress made in the last six months including ironing out some leadership issues. Brian Mihalik led a group of six students on an education abroad trip there. They had some complications, such as food issues, which are being corrected by the Punta Cana Foundation. All difficulties will be addressed as they arise; but we need to keep in mind that this is a developing region which gives it unique challenges. Most exciting is the semester long education abroad program which is currently in place. Every two weeks a Virginia Tech faculty member leads the students. Joe Scarpaci has just returned and four more will be going in succession. We hope to keep this program active annually.
22. S. K. De Datta revealed that a new **Program Coordinator has been hired full time at Punta Cana as a local resource for Virginia Tech members**. Her name is Heyddy Melissa Pimentel. The Punta Cana Ecological Foundation (PCEF) will provide day-to-day supervision, oversight, and work plans for the position in coordination with vision of VT. PCEF will perform periodic evaluations of this positions' performance as defined by Punta Cana Human Resources Department and VT. VT will reimburse the Punta Can Ecological Foundation for her salary. We have specifically created this as a new position within PCEF so it fits into their existing organizational structure and will function smoothly in their current operations and will support the activities of both VT and PCEF. The position will work for PCEF and VT and will not work for or represent any other institution.
23. John Dooley noted that there is another group interested in going to Punta Cana for a Maymester, however, the faculty member is having difficulty recruiting students because he cannot confirm the dates. He asked if the faculty member should contact Heyddy.
24. S. K. De Datta said the faculty member should contact him and carbon copy Heyddy on the correspondence. By putting him and Jake Kheel in the loop it can be assured that all the issues will be addressed. It would be beneficial to establish a method which allows all interested faculty members to contact him first.
25. John Dooley suggested creating a list serve for a Punta Cana interest group. It would serve to generate interest for those who have not thought about exploring the opportunities Punta Cana has to offer.
26. Gene Egger recommended using the core faculty members who are currently involved in Punta Cana projects to recruit other faculty members,
27. S. K. De Datta said both ideas were excellent suggestions and will be looked into further. He stressed the importance of branching out in locations other than Western Europe; a goal the Punta Cana initiative helps fulfill. Ted Kheel is delighted by Virginia Tech's involvement and they are almost matching what our university is investing. Jake Kheel is also very committed to making our students happy. To strengthen local ties our programs are branching out to

actively include the local educational institutions.

28. John Dooley addressed the major hurdle for Virginia Tech students which is the language barrier. Spanish is the main language of Punta Cana; French, not English, is the second. Therefore students who are not familiar with Punta Cana's primary or secondary language face more challenges. Despite this, we must remember that the resort is not the primary focus of the programs. While it does work very well for the HTM initiatives, students from other fields have many other viable opportunities to explore.
29. S. K. De Datta informed everyone that they have also opened a **new resort** and are building a program which will offer qualified **HTM students internships**. He will work with Richard Perdue (Head of the Hospitality and Tourism Management Department) to develop this.
30. Steven Duke offered a brief overview of the new education abroad software system **Studio Abroad**. The target time of having the system fully operational is June or July of 2006. It will be a two-part database. The first part is a database designed to track students from the first steps of initial interest through enrollment. The second section is a website component which allows students to search available programs using different keywords. Studio Abroad will be a free resource available for faculty and students. The faculty members can direct interested students to the resource and allow them to track their options. They could also do the same functions at the departmental level. OIRED agreed to purchase the software at a cost of \$50,000 for the university and will pay for the annual fees which range between five through seven thousand dollars. Studio Abroad will be able to work in conjunction with the Banner system so that critical information can be shared between the two programs. However, in accordance with FERPA only selected information will be shared. He will be meeting with faculty to determine what they will need to know. Additionally, he will prepare a handout for the next UCIA meeting that details the capabilities of the Studio Abroad software.
31. Susan Magliaro provided information on **Operation Provide Classroom Comfort**. The School of Education in collaboration with the Alumni Association, CLAHS Dean's office, Corps of Cadets, Athletic Department, Premier Trucking, WalMart and many others raised over \$20,000 in school supplies and cash. From these donations, over 60 student and staff volunteers bundled almost 2,500 student supply packs and 80 teacher supply packs that were then shipped to the children in Iraq.
32. Richard Shryock suggested people visit the Lyric Theater homepage to see the list of films being presented for the **Francophile Film Festival** which is sponsored by the French government and numerous campus departments.
33. Jack Davis adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.