

University Council for International Affairs (UCIA)

March 1, 2007

325 Burruss Hall

10:30 – 12:00

Present:

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

Ron Daniel, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education

Debbie Day, Alumni Relations

Steve Duke, Assistant Program Director, Education Abroad

Monika Gibson, Director, Graduate School Student Services

Paul Hover, Library Systems

Chad Miller, Economic Development Specialist/Int'l Programs, Economic Development

Miriam Rich, Communications Coordinator, OIRED

Nicole Sanderlin, Graduate Student, Public & International Affairs

Richard Shryock, Assoc. Professor, Foreign Languages and Literature

Barry Simmons, Director, Scholarships & Financial Aid

Welcome:

1) Andrew Becker welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes from February 1, 2007 had been previously distributed electronically. These **minutes were approved**.

Information Items:

1) Richard Shyrock announced that the application deadline for the Alexandria, Egypt Summer 2007 education abroad program has been extended from February 9th until March 12th.

2) Ron Daniel, Richard Shyrock and Steven Duke presented their findings in regard to the **International Strategic Plan and Undergraduate Education**. They distributed a seven page handout which listed the goals and objectives of undergraduate education according to: a) strategy b) status c) key conflicts/offices affected and d) suggested next steps.

In general they found it very hard to amass the information because it was often unclear which strategies were associated with which offices. They felt it would be very beneficial if each task was assigned to a specific office and key figures were listed as contact personnel. This would also help determine which projects were out there and help others design new ones using the successful ones as templates.

Committee members offered input on most of the strategies listed. These suggestions will be incorporated into the handout and an update will be given to John Dooley to review at the next meeting.

3) Mala Kumar presented on behalf of the International Relations Organization at Virginia Tech. She distributed the information **booklet on Darfur, Sudan** which has been printed and dispersed to students and various campus organizations.

Mala distributed a handout on the **Spring 2007 Togo trip** which is a collaboration with the NGO group Help Africa. It is a two month long humanitarian trip to Togo which aims to start a computer training center and finance small loans for women in Togolese village. The project proposal can be found online at www.IROVT.com.

Mala informed the members that the **Sudan Freedom Walk** is being held in Richmond, Virginia, from April 6-7, 2007. It is a state-wide initiative to raise awareness about Dafur. There are three major components to the activity: Art/Photo Exhibit, Rally/Walk, and a Movie Screening.

4) Steven Duke announced that the **Education Abroad Office will be hosting information seminars** targeting specific regions in order to inform students about their travel abroad options.

A) March 21, 2007: focus on Africa, Middle East, Italy and France

B) April 19, 2007: focus on UK, Ireland, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand

Both information sessions will be held in 1100 Torgerson Hall.

Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Sarah Mitchem.