

Minutes

University Council for International Affairs (UCIA)

March 2, 2006

325 Burruss Hall

10:30 – 12:00 noon

Present:

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

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

Jeremy Billetdeaux, Senior Coordinator for Education Abroad

Cynthia Bonner, VP Student Affairs

Ron Daniel, Program Director, CESA and Associate Provost

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

S.K. De Datta, Assoc. 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

Valerie Hardcastle, Professor and Head/STS; Associate Dean/CLAHS

Tamara Kennelly, Library Systems

Chad Miller, Econ. Dev. Specialist/International Programs, Economic Development

Antonio Nieto, Assistant Professor, Mining and Minerals Engineering

Sedki Riad, Professor, Electrical Engineering

Miriam Rich, Communications Coordinator, IPM CRSP / OIRED

Richard Shryock, Assoc. Professor, Foreign Languages and Literature

Barry Simmons, Director, Scholarships & Financial Aid

Nammalwar Sriranganathan, Professor, Biomedical Science

Welcome:

1) Jack Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes from February 2, 2006 had been previously distributed electronically. These **minutes were approved**.

Information Items:

1) Ron Daniel presented a **CESA slide show** to the members which featured the faculty and staff members currently at the CESA facilities. Highlights included student activities, a recent blizzard, new modular furniture, and exploring the master plan development issues for the site. The long term goals include incorporating all facilities on site in order to eliminate renting locations.

2) Miriam Rich informed everyone that the **CESA website** is approaching a bilingual development to include all information in both English and Italian.

- 3) S.K. De Datta clarified that the master plan for CESA is still in its tentative initial steps due to cost factors.
- 4) Ron Daniel concluded his presentation with a brief summary of the **La Pabiana housing issue**. The building currently houses 19 students. However, the landlady wished to double the rent so a new location must be found.
- 5) Steven Duke disbursed two **education abroad insurance policy proposal documents**. Opinions were polled and the consensus reached was that with a few minor edits proposal one should be used and proposal two distributed to students for their own information. This would ensure that the responsibility remained with the students and did not burden the faculty members who lead the education abroad programs. Steven will work with Fred Weaver to incorporate the suggested adjustments to proposal one.
- 6) Jack Davis brought up the **\$50,000 travel services issue**. Currently, if the estimated cost for a travel program exceeds \$50,000 then all travel plans must be handled through a travel services organization which has been approved by Virginia Tech. Numerous faculty members complained that they have too much paperwork to handle when they cannot use the travel service they prefer. Jack suggested that 4 or 5 of the commonly used travel services be grandfathered in to the approved list and that a certification process be developed for approving new agencies.
- 7) John Dooley requested that Sarah Mitchem distribute the approved list of travel services to the UCIA members and that they review it and decide if they have any other preferences. If so, then they should submit the information and help will be sought from W. Thomason Kaloupek (Director of Materials Management) on how to handle the requests or concerns.
- 8) Jack Davis suggested that the travel services issue be listed as a primary agenda item in conjunction with the MasterCard issues for one of the 2006 UCIA meetings. The committee members agreed.
- 9) John Dooley quickly informed the committee that everything was on track and going well with the **International Faculty Development Program** and that they would be leaving on schedule (May 17th) for their international travel with 16 faculty members.
- 10) Antonio Nieto provided a handout on the **Americas Center for Education and Research (ACER)**. The vision is that under the leadership of Virginia Tech, ACER will provide to Guanauato and Mexico a scientific research community with a platform from which to build and sustain applied-research partnerships between Virginia Tech and regional academic institutions, and the private sector. The mission of ACER is to promote academics and research through collaborative university and research institution programs in education, research, and outreach. Based on an array of multidisciplinary areas of research particular to the region, the Center promotes sustainable technical and socioeconomic solutions to specific problems within the region and promotes scientific

and technical exchange between the United States, Mexico and the rest of Latin America. ACER wishes to place a great emphasis on interdisciplinary programs and is open to proposals so that the plan can incorporate the Art and Humanities branches of universities. Proposals for collaborations are invited. They are also working on developing courses and policies to help diminish the language barriers which students may face.

11) S.K. De Datta emphasized that the ACER initiative does not eclipse the Monterrey Tech initiatives since each facility will engage in any unique opportunity for collaboration.

12) S.K. De Datta briefed members on the developments in **Punta Cana**. Numerous glitches in the education abroad program have been solved thanks to Heyddy's initiatives. She submits a weekly report to S.K. which allows him to stay in the loop and help solve any concerns before they escalate into problems. On March 6, 2006, a Punta Cana Interest Group meeting will be held in 210 Burruss Hall and all members are welcome to come.

13) Miriam Rich shared a handout featuring the events hosted by OIRED for the **Woman's Month Program**.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55