

UCIA Meeting
March 19, 2009 2:30-4:00
International Affairs Office, Meeting Room A

Present

Don Back, *Director, Language and Culture Institute*
Mike Bertelsen, *Associate Director, OIREC and Associate Dean, CALS*
Jeremy Biletdeaux, *Assistant Program Director for Education Abroad, OIREC*
S.K. De Datta, *Associate Vice President for International Affairs and Director, OIREC*
John Dooley, *Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs*
Ana Dubnjakovic, *Performing Arts and Foreign Languages Librarian*
Miriam Rich, *Communications Coordinator, OIREC*
Glenda Scales, *Assoc Dean for International Programs and Info Technology, College of Engineering*
Richard Shyrook, *Department Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures*
Barry Simmons, *Director, Scholarships and Financial Aid*
Alexandra Sommers, *Graduate Research Assistant, Outreach and International Affairs*
Nammalwar Sriranganathan, *Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine*
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*

1. Welcome, introductions, and approval of minutes

The meeting was called to order by UCIA guest chair S.K. De Datta as both Lance Matheson and John Browder were out of town. The minutes had been submitted previously for electronic approval.

2. Education Abroad updates: Jeremy Biletdeaux

Jeremy Biletdeaux stated that applications are being received for programs and scholarships; he does not have any final numbers at this time but has not noted a significant decrease in applications. He will provide a more detailed report on those figures next month. In response to a question from Dr. De Datta regarding recruitment efforts, Jeremy stated that the Education Abroad offices has had several expos as well as a special outreach effort to department advisors. Program director Matt McMullen has been meeting with faculty as well. There is a new need-based scholarship program sponsored by OIREC/Education Abroad for summer programs, in addition to the funding that is allocated for CESA programs. Barry Simmons mentioned that there is often funding available for groups of under-represented students as well. Information on the new scholarships has gone out on the listserve and has been posted on the Education Abroad website. Nammalwar Sriranganathan inquired as to whether there were scholarships for graduate level and professional students. Barry Simmons replied that he was unaware of any at the university level, but there may be such funding in place at individual colleges. John Dooley added that the graduate school likewise might have such offerings but these would be based on individual student inquiries, not a system-based program of awards. Dr. Sriranganathan cited the example of one vet med student who had received a \$1000 grant to defray the costs of a trip for India, but the financial aid office than reduced his aid package by \$1000. Barry Simmons replied that the financial aid office needs to be informed about this type of situations in order to make the appropriate adjustments; however, they cannot be done retroactively. Dr. Dooley suggested that an agenda item be added to the next meeting's discussion to address ways that students can access financial aid information. Glenda Scales added that it would be useful to post the information on the website.

Jeremy then mentioned that during previous meetings the council had talked about rerouting funds from summer session programs back to the various departments that organize the trips. Richard Shyrock commented that the current system of funding inhibits creation of new programs; all program fees awarded are based on previous enrollments and new programs cannot be added unless cuts are made to existing programs. Faculty members feel this is restrictive and that there should be more flexibility for study abroad opportunities. Dr. Dooley summarized this discussion with two points:

- Summer session funding be based on a three-year rolling average
- Tom Wilkinson, associate vice president for distance learning and summer sessions at Virginia Tech, be invited to a future UCIA meeting to present information on how start-up funds

Council members also commented on the apparent disconnect among colleges as to how the funding and expenses of summer sessions are handled. Dr. Dooley noted there are ways to build funding from one year into carry-over to the next.

3. Revision of international sections of website: Richard Shyrock

On behalf of the website redesign team (Richard Shyrock, Miriam Rich, Lance Matheson, Nicole Sanderlin, and Glenda Scales), Richard Shyrock presented the ideas that had been discussed at their recent meeting. The group would like to feature rotating photos from the regional centers at the top of the page. Dr. Shyrock explained that the overriding concern was that the information presented be logical, user-friendly, and functional to visitors unfamiliar with the institutional names and terminology used within the university. Among the suggestions advocated by the group were:

- Reducing descriptions
- Incorporating standard categories for each region
- Featuring areas for each college and their respective international pages
- An interactive map of the world
- More depth for international projects

Committee members responded to several questions and comments, and added that further feedback and input be directed to Lance Matheson or Miriam Rich. Dr. Dooley suggested an April 1 deadline to provide suggestions and a May 1 deadline for going live.

4. International Certificate Program: Alexandra Sommers

Alexandra Sommers shared information she had researched for establishment of an undergraduate international certificate. Introduction of this certificate program is in keeping with the recommendations of the international strategic plan. Alexandra provided information on the certificate programs offered by Georgia Tech, Boston College, and Florida State. Many institutions have begun offering these certificate programs, which are perceived to be more desirable and marketable than an international minor; for example, there are institutions where an international studies minor can be earned without a student having left the country. Dr. Dooley expressed his concerns that the UCIA be greatly involved in this process, which would be led by Dr. Daniel Wubah, the vice president and dean for undergraduate education. Dr. De Datta advised that a committee be formed to work on this project. The estimated time frame for implementation would be the fall 2010 semester.

5. Informational items: council members

A. VT-Tata Seminar in Mumbai: John Dooley

John Dooley recently returned from Mumbai, India, where he attended the second in a series of seminars co-sponsored by the Tata Corporation and Virginia Tech. This seminar focused on the intersection of biology and technology. The next session is scheduled for October 30 – 31. Dr. Dooley mentioned that he also toured the Taj Mahal hotel which had been the site of the recent terrorist attacks and where he and other members of Virginia Tech delegations have stayed during visits. The hotel is open for business even as restoration work continues; there is a tasteful memorial to the victims of the attacks on site.

B. Outreach Now/ International Keynote speaker: John Dooley

This year's Outreach Now annual conference will be held September 14 and will have an international theme. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, who is known as the father of the green revolution in India, will be the featured guest and keynote speaker.

C. Humphries Fellows: Don Back

Don Back announced that there will be ten Humphrey fellows arriving at Virginia Tech; he provided their biographical sketches, which will also be sent to council members via email for wide distribution in order to match the visitors with faculty members sharing similar professions and interests and increase their networking opportunities.

6. Next meeting: Friday, April 17 (2:30 – 4:00 p.m.)