

UCIA Meeting
March 20, 2008 10:30-12:00
International Affairs Office Meeting Room A

Present

Susan Angle, Services for Students with Disabilities
Don Back, Director, English Language Institute
Andrew Becker, Chair of UCIA, Associate Chair Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures
Mike Bertelsen, Associate Director OIRED
Jeremy Billetdeaux, Senior Program Coordinator for Education Abroad
Jan Helge Bøhn, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering
Cynthia Bonner, Student Affairs
John Browder, Professor, Associate Dean, Architecture
Steve Duke, Assistant Director for Education Abroad, OIRED
Paul Hover, University Libraries
Paul Knox, University Dist. Professor & Sr. Fellow for International Advancement
Mary Beth Nash, University Legal Counsel
Miriam Rich, OIRED
Glenda Scales, Assoc. Dean for Distance & Learning Education, College of Engineering
Nammalwar Sriranganathan, Professor of Microbiology, Biomedical Sciences & Pathobiology
Debra Stoudt, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

1. Welcome and introductions: Andrew Becker, Committee Chair
2. **Education Abroad issues:** Steve Duke
 - a. Proposal for three-year pilot project for summer faculty-led programs
 - i. The current system doesn't account for certain logistical processes and can limit faculty in their availability to teach abroad. Two methods were proposed: 1.) the program would include a faculty salary in program fee 2.) or switch to a tuition-based system (this depends on what Virginia state laws will allow).
 - ii. The current summer tuition money doesn't go back to the program. The committee wasn't clear on what state law would allow and prohibit. Do we have to do a tuition-based system
 - iii. Sell the idea based on possible increased enrollment
 - iv. Does the tuition-based approach promote low-cost faculty to teach?
 - v. Next step would be working with the budget office to separate finally from the tuition-based model and increase the number of non-Virginia residents going on study abroad programs.
 - vi. Glenda Scales will give Steve info on the Enterprise fund financial model so he can extract applicable pieces
 - vii. Need to take something to deans and get feedback; Steve and others on the committee will work on meeting individually with deans to get their feedback and support

- b. Education Abroad Code of Ethics published (PDF circulated prior to meeting)
3. Can students with health limitations study abroad? Mary Beth Nash (Office of University Counsel) and Susan Angle (Director, Services for Students with Disabilities)
 - Addressing the issue that came up with Pamplin student in the fall who is physically limited.
 - A professor cannot make the decision about the student's ability to travel abroad
 - Student must be considered as an adult and allowed to make her/his own judgment call.
 - Students with disabilities can't be considered more of a risk than other students with no known health issues
 - Perhaps create handouts ('full' disclosure) for each program that outline the rigors of each trip; don't address specific health issues, but talk about availability of hospitals, medical treatment, etc. Difficulty here is that Professors don't know what to address; students don't know what to ask for.
 - Students can be sent home for medical complications (same as policies for on campus medical withdrawals)
 - Difficulty: it's different than being on campus because the medical facilities aren't the same, and the continuation of the course may be jeopardized.
 - If the professor is acting within the scope of his/her duties, he/she just needs to do the best she/he can. But, the university can't address the "what ifs" that would happen within that
 - Exercise common sense among faculty while overseas
 - Concern: Faculty need to feel comfortable with the students they are taking and the situations they're taking students into, in order to be willing to initiate courses voluntarily
 - Professors not liable if performing normal duties and operating as one could expect.
4. Edited version of student responsibilities for education abroad (follow up from December; PDF circulated prior to meeting)
 - Sent policy to legal and got the response that several things needed to be removed
 - All consequences were struck out because they defy current Virginia Tech policies
 - No legal obligation for VT when a student is doing a program with another university
 - Cannot require students to tell us where they are
 - Strike B and C sections
 - In Section A change "must" to "suggest"
 - Health insurance certificate required (Not a VT policy; Only students at VT required to do this are international students and vet med students)
 - Other countries do require it by law
 - Need to start the process to get approval from the BOV to require health insurance while traveling abroad under VT Education Abroad programs.
5. Passport presentation by Jan Helge Bøhn

- All students should be required to have passports. TO make this happen, this proposal would have to go through the BOV and its probably not going to go through
- Suggested that Bøhn set up a table at orientation to encourage freshmen to register for passports.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tiffany Brown and Rachel Judy