

University Council for International Affairs (UCIA)

April 05, 2007

325 Burruss Hall

10:30 – 12:00

Present:

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

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

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

Karen DePauw, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies & Dean of the Graduate School

John Dooley, Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs

Steve Duke, Assistant Program Director, Education Abroad

Gene Egger, Professor/Director Special Programs Architecture

Paul Hover, Library Systems

Mary Marchant, Assoc. Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

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

Nicole Sanderlin, Graduate Student, Public & International Affairs

Richard Shryock, Assoc. Professor, Foreign Languages and Literature

Barry Simmons, Director, Scholarships & Financial Aid

Judy Snoke, Director, Educational Conferences

Welcome:

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

Information Items:

1) John Dooley informed members about the **March 2007, VT-India trip**. Participants from Virginia Tech included: John Dooley, Richard Benson, Ishwar Puri and S.K. De Datta. Members from the Advisory Committee from India included: M.S. Swaminathan, R. Seshasayee, V. Sumantran, Arun K. Vora, P. Rama Rao, Nagesh B. Pabbisetty. Other participant included: Aravind Bharadwaj.

The trip was highly encouraging. There is a great deal of interest in educational institutions wishing to partner with India. An RFP has been distributed and we are awaiting responses from entities who expressed their interest.

John will be participating on a trade mission to India with the Governor along with a group of about 40 other people. The Governor has agreed to meet with members interested in our initiative. (The Governor and John have subsequently canceled their participation to the trade mission due to the events which took place at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007.)

2) Karen DePauw presented on the section of **the International Strategic Plan concerning Graduate Education**. She distributed a handout detailing the goals and objectives for Graduate Education with notes on each. Karen felt there was a need to better define the information being requested and the correct procedure to provide that material. She would like to know if the Graduate School is responsible for the goals and strategies in this particular section of the International Strategic Plan. Additionally, she wants to know what is being done concerning progress in areas not included in the plan. Karen suggested revising the goals and strategies so that each specifies the responsible parties for each particular duty.

In regards to the sections concerning study abroad, Karen suggested placing the emphasis not just on the location, but also on:

- a) what students are doing in relation to their scholarship and how it connects to location
- b) the cultural engagement they will experience

3) John Dooley updated members on the **Latin America Center**. The discussion centered on what transpired with the **recent visit from representatives of the University of Guanajuato from Guanajuato, Mexico**. A high-level team from the University of Guanajuato led by the rector of the university, Dr. Arturo Lara López (Dr. Lara), visited the Virginia Tech campus from March 27-29, 2007. During their visit, there were several informal and formal meetings to articulate the possibility of establishing a Virginia Tech Center for Research, Education and Outreach for Latin America in collaboration with the University of Guanajuato and the state government of Guanajuato (the governor's office).

The group discussed priority areas of consideration in setting up a Virginia Tech center in Mexico. Dr. Lara suggested that we structure the discussion around the following issues:

- the objective and vision of the center
- how to organize the center
- a business plan
- selection of the location

The vision for the center was extensively discussed by all members of the Virginia Tech and UG teams.

As part of our Latin American vision, a suggestion was made to call a subset of this vision "The University of Guanajuato-Virginia Tech Corporate Collaborative Center."

The vision put forth by the UG group in their PowerPoint presentation included research and education pieces, and supported excellence in enterprise-driven competitiveness and global connectivity.

With regards to location, the initial thought is to have a presence in the Inner Port Silao. The land for that site needs to be assigned by the State of Guanajuato.

A second site similar to our CRC would be located in a land area owned by the University of Guanajuato at El Copal Irapuato. In further discussion, the group agreed on priority areas of collaboration as being the following:

- Nano-science and engineering
- Bioinformatics and computational science
- Information technologies
- Agro-industry techniques
- Aerospace and transportation
- Sustainable energy systems
- Social, cultural, and language studies

An initial draft needs to be developed by May 31, 2007 and completed by June 15, 2007. The proposal will be submitted by the University of Guanajuato to CONACYT for funding.

4) Andrew Becker announced the **winners of the Alumni Awards**:

- Alumni Award for Excellence in International Education:
James E. Littlefield
- Alumni Award for Excellence in International Outreach and Research:
Thomas Ollendick

Andrew requested that the next UCIA meeting address limiting the dossiers.

5) Steven Duke distributed a handout detailing the **projected VT education abroad programs for 2006-2007**. About 100 more students are set to participate this year as compared to last year.

On April 18th in Torgersen room 1100 from 11:00 – 3:00 the Education Abroad unit of OIRED is hosting an **information expo** concerning programs in Asia, Ireland, the UK, and Australia.

6) Members discussed the **issue of foreign language training at Virginia Tech**. Many colleges are considering integrating languages into their curriculum. This would create a need to expand the number of languages offered at Virginia Tech. However, the short term action needed is to improve the current courses offered.

Many universities offer up to 55 languages. Virginia Tech offers 10, and only 5 or 6 of these are secure courses taught by faculty members who have appointment contacts over one year.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10.

Minutes submitted by Sarah Mitchem