

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

Present

John Albano, Financial Aid
Don Back, Director, English Language Institute
Andrew Becker, Chair of UCIA, Associate Chair Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures
Mike Bertelsen, Associate Director OIRED
John Browder, Professor, Associate Dean, Architecture
Arturo Cerezo, Humphrey Fellow
Steve Duke, Assistant Director for Education Abroad, OIRED
Paul Hover, University Libraries
Svetlana Malkarova, Humphrey Fellow
Lance Matheson, Associate Professor, Pamplin College of Business
Miriam Rich, OIRED
Glenda Scales, Assoc. Dean for Distance & Learning Education, College of Engineering
Chhun Singha, Humphrey Fellow
Richard Shryock, Department Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures
Nammalwar Sriranganathan, Professor of Microbiology, Biomedical Sciences & Pathobiology
Debra Stoudt, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
Jan Wilson, Alumni Association

1. Welcome and introductions: Andrew Becker, Committee Chair
2. **Humphrey Fellows:** Don Back
 - The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship program is a federal government-funded program in leadership and professional skills development. The Fellowship invites business professionals to the United States for ten months of non-degree academic study and experience.
 - The English Language Institute at Virginia Tech is hosting these fellows for five months to help them develop their English skills and to assist them in networking with university and community officials in their career fields.
 - Three fellows attended the meeting:
 1. Arturo Cerezo spoke about his work finding ways to protect the hydrological resources and land around the Panama Canal. His work is centered around developing sustainable alternatives to previous land and water-damaging methods of development.
 2. Chhun Singha discussed his role in the decentralization of the democratic process in Cambodia. His work brings together leaders at the policy level and local level. He also strives to engage people in their community and inspire them to have the confidence to become involved in their local government.
 3. Svetlana Malkarova is a political sociologist who serves in a variety of capacities, including advisor to the Russian Parliament. She is studying the

lobbying process in Russia and how that compares with the lobbying process in other parts of the world.

- The committee offered suggestions to the fellows of people within the university community who might be interested in developing contacts and a working relationship with the fellows. Don Back will assist the fellows in making contact with these faculty members.

3. Education Abroad issues: Steve Duke

- Health Insurance Certificate (follow up from last meeting)
 1. Students cannot be required to have health insurance in most countries, but Education Abroad will continue to suggest it. There will need to be a change in how this is presented to students until the BOV can make health insurance a Virginia Tech requirement for students studying abroad.
 2. **This needs to go on the agenda for the next BOV meeting in June.**
 - **Steve Duke, Andrew Becker, and Lance Matheson will draft a resolution for the committee to approve.**
 - **This resolution will then be sent to COIA in May for approval.**
 - **The resolution should be ready to send to the BOV by June.**
 3. The group should seek input from Pat Hyer
- Allergy and Dietary Needs form (follow up from last meeting)
 1. University legal counsel has said that this form cannot be distributed to students because it violates ADA (Steve Duke distributed the e-mail from Mary Beth Nash outlining this information)
 2. The form will be removed from the Education Abroad website and Steve will contact all program leaders to let them know any forms they have for upcoming trips should be shredded.
 3. The committee is still concerned about faculty who are faced with emergency situations overseas. Legal counsel had suggested information disclosure for each trip, but Education Abroad cannot provide continuously up-to-date comprehensive information about each location its students visit.
 4. The group visited the idea of developing an “informed consent” statement that alerts students to the dangers of traveling in foreign countries and asks them to visit websites such as CIA Factbook and the State Department’s site. **This resolution was passed by the group.**
 5. Steve will work with Mary Beth Nash and the committee to develop this option further and will bring something to the next meeting.
- Policy Statement on Student Responsibilities for Education Abroad programs (follow up from last meeting)
 1. The wording in the policy statement was changed as suggested by legal counsel.
 2. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHOULD REVIEW AND BRING CHANGES TO MAY 8 MEETING SO THE DOCUMENT CAN BE APPROVED.**
- Information items:

1. Education Abroad Expo April 15, 2008 10:00-2:00
2. Education Abroad Code of Ethics information sessions for faculty are being held April 10 and 11, 2008 at the International Affairs Offices
3. Committee members invited to a reception for the Humphrey Fellows on April 24, 2008
4. **The committee resolved to make the Student Participation in International Exchange Programs a procedure instead of a policy**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rachel Judy