

**Minutes from the  
University Council for International Affairs (UCIA)**

April 15th, 2005  
325 Burruss Hall  
10:30 – 12:00 noon

**Present:**

Andrew Becker, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures,  
Associate Professor of Latin, Ancient Greek, and Classical Studies  
Kim Beisecker, Director, Cranwell International Center  
George Crofts, Associate Dean, College of Science  
Jack Davis, Chair of UCIA, College of Architecture and Urban Studies  
S. K. De Datta, Associate Provost for International Affairs and Director of OIRED  
John Dooley, Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs  
Gene Egger, Director Special Programs, College of Architecture  
Patricia B. Foutz, Alumni Relations  
Monika Gibson, Director of Student Services, Graduate School  
Tamara Kennelly, Library Systems  
Chad Miller, Econ. Dev. Specialist/International Programs  
Sedki Riad, Professor, Electrical Engineering  
Miriam Rich, Communications Coordinator, OIRED  
Tarun Sen, Associate Dean, College of Business  
Judy Snoke, English Language Institute, Continuing Education  
Kathleen Stadler-Thompson, Education Abroad, OIRED

Visitors:

Jeremy Scott Billetdeaux, Education Abroad, OIRED  
Michael Barnett, student, Political Science

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Action Items**

**I. Approval of minutes**

Minutes from March 16th, 2005 were distributed electronically and changes can be sent to Hope.

**Information Items**

**I. Briefing book for the BOV – John Dooley**

Thanked committee for input on booklet. The BOV book will be used very broadly – the information is still being developed – we hope to have it out to the board by the second

week of May – one month before the retreat. From there we will examine other ways it can be used.

Dooley gave an update on the BOV retreat to Switzerland in June. There are nine board members participating. The board members will be introduced to the International Strategic Plan, they are also scheduled to meet international alumni, international visitors and we have two students coming from Darmstadt – a university we have an MOU and student exchange program with.

## **II. International Relations – Student Organization – Michael Barnett**

The International Relations Organization is a student organization that was recently founded to do a number of things: host international speakers, hold mock international crises, and further VA Tech's international prominence.

The organization is looking at attending international conferences. They are examining the crises in the Sudan – what appears to be a government sponsored genocide. The organization is also looking to bring in speakers from NGO's.

UCIA could play a role in possibly creating an institutionalized process for bringing in international guests. UCIA could help the student organization in locating pertinent contacts and utilizing them.

Barnett explained make-up of organization: thirty-one members total, two graduate students. This group is an outgrowth of model UN – the group can still act in the capacity of model UN but it now encompasses a larger group of issues.

## **III. Foreign Languages and Literatures: Hiring Plan Re: University's Goals in Internationalization – Andrew Becker**

Becker outlined what the Foreign Languages and Literature department discussed they need to do in order to accomplish the plans laid out in the International Strategic Plan. The initial discussion was without regards to resources – in order to get the best view of what exactly is needed. They believe we need to add permanent programs as opposed to programs when the money is available i.e. year to year basis. The plan we came up with basically solidifies existing programs – it does not expand languages but makes them more permanent. At some point this group can help garner support and put weight behind this proposal. Committee may send suggestions to Becker or work through Hope to send suggestions.

Dooley suggested a comparison might be useful to see where/how VA Tech stacks up to other universities in the language departments. All new hires being requested are listed as tenure track, in order to show the University's commitment to expanding language programs.

Short discussion on having a class that would explore different languages. The Foreign Language department is hesitant to use this model because it is perceived as a superficial learning experience. Becker will propose this idea to the department for comments.

#### **IV. Outreach Promotion and Tenure Guidelines – Jack Davis**

A committee in reference to university guidelines and outreach met several times over the past semester. Their charge was to look at subtleties within the guidelines and to make clear that scholarship is understood throughout the University – it is integral to the entire Promotion and Tenure guidelines.

Outreach was being looked at as a check box – it needs to have greater prominence – it is integral to teaching and research.

The report from the committee was taken to the Provost and Vice Provost – with minor changes they are now in full support. The University will be taking a fresh look at Promotion and Tenure now. These guidelines will likely be entered into governance.

#### **V. International Awards – Jack Davis**

The jury reviewed twelve nominations for the Alumni Awards. In International Education, Victoria Fu from Human Development won. For Outreach and Research, David Kingston from the Chemistry Department won. Davis gave a quick background on each award recipient. These were challenging choices but in both cases, these individuals are truly touching those “on the ground”.

#### **VI. Update on Punta Cana – S. K. De Datta**

The committee brought together for the Punta Cana initiative was charged with coming up with a think-piece to provide to Ted Kheel – we have done that. Ted indicated that VA Tech is well-ahead (compared to other universities) but he does not want to accept Tech as the umbrella agency immediately. It may evolve that way but at this point it is not the approach.

Theo Dillaha (faculty in OIRED) went to Punta Cana and met with USAID representatives. He did not find a huge interest but they did recognize the need for water issue solutions. Punta Cana will pay fully for someone to set up a water system center.

The Punta Cana committee is also looking at ways to have students on semester-long programs at the center. At this point, it looks difficult to relinquish a faculty member for an entire semester so one solution may be to rotate i.e. students learn several subjects in one semester thereby rotating faculty members in and out.

Discussion on ways to circumvent the problem of faculty members being away from their jobs at VA Tech.

### **VII. International Week – Kim Beisecker**

On the opening night we had about three hundred people present. The mayor gave an interesting speech – spoke about the diversity of the Blacksburg congressional district – especially compared to the rest of the area.

The street fair was highly successful – an estimate of about twelve thousand people was given for attendance. It was the largest non-athletic event at the University this year. We had eight hundred people involved in the planning and implementation of the street fair. This is our 46<sup>th</sup> year doing street fair.

Hokies United has raised about \$50,000 so far for Tsunami relief.

### **VIII. International Street Fair (Int'l Affairs/OIRED) – S. K. De Datta**

OIRED has been involved in the last thirteen years – we were very pleased with this year. We had an Education Abroad, Research, Peace Corps and Quiz table – we had prizes. It was a very successful way to disseminate information to the university community about international affairs at VA Tech.

Davis adjourned meeting at 11:58 AM