

University Council for International Affairs (UCIA)
May 4, 2006
325 Burruss Hall
10:30 – 12:00 noon

Present:

Andrew Becker, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature
Michael Bertelsen, Assoc. Director OIRED and Assoc. Dean CALS
Jeremy Billetdeaux, Senior Coordinator for Education Abroad
Jack Davis, Chair of UCIA, College of Architecture and Urban Studies
S.K. De Datta, Assoc. Provost for International Affairs and Director, OIRED
John Dooley, Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs
Steve Duke, Assistant Program Director, Education Abroad
Gene Egger, Professor/Director Special Programs Architecture
Sedki Riad, Professor, Electrical Engineering
Tarun Sen, Associate Dean, College of Business
Judith Shrum, Associate Professor, Foreign Languages
Richard Shryock, Assoc. Professor, Foreign Languages and Literature
Barry Simmons, Director, Scholarships & Financial Aid
Judy Snoke, Director, Educational Conferences
Amanda Walters, Alumni Association

Welcome:

1) Jack Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes from April 6, 2006 had been previously distributed electronically. These **minutes were approved**.

Information Items:

- 1) Jack Davis announced the winners for the recent Alumni Awards:
 - Alumni Award for Excellence in International Education: awarded to Rodney Thompson.
 - Alumni Award for Excellence in International Education: awarded to Jeffrey Alwang.

- 2) Steven Duke distributed a handout which illustrated the design concepts and purpose behind a new survey about students' interests in education abroad. Education Abroad developed a general survey that is customized for each VT college. The input provided from the students will help the Education Abroad/OIRED office determine where to seek additional partnerships and opportunities. The structure of the Education Abroad student interest survey is based on a uniform set of questions with an additional two questions which are college specific. Education Abroad plans to administer the survey each year. Based on the information provided so far (the survey is open until May 15th) it seems that most responses were given from the freshman and sophomore classes. Many expressed a

desire to participate in an education abroad program in their junior year and listed “cost” as the main obstacle to them participating in a program. It is not surprising that a large number of students indicated a preference for programs in western Europe or Australia; however, many students expressed interest in other regions of the world as well, and the Education Abroad /OIRED office will attempt to attract more students to non-traditional locations and diversify the destinations where students study. Student exchange programs are still the most inexpensive way for students to participate in a program; however, the office is looking into alternative solutions.

3) John Dooley charged Steve Duke to determine the following information once the survey is complete:

- How Virginia Tech’s education abroad program costs compare to those offered by other institutions.
- A report detailing the student responses in a concise manner which can then be distributed to university department heads and other selected members.
- How the data garnered from the survey can best be applied to marketing the available education abroad programs to interested students.

Richard Shryock suggested that extra links to specific locations on the Education Abroad website be added to the “Thank You” page on which the survey ends.

4) Steven Duke addressed the UCIA members about the Education Abroad policies, forms, and process for data collection. A subcommittee will be working over the summer to determine a method which will streamline the paperwork and create methods to “police” the policies. He invited members to serve on the subcommittee and asked them to contact him. Jack Davis suggested that Tarun Sen, Gene Egger, Jeremy Billetdeaux and Barry Simmons be members on it.

5) John Dooley briefed the committee on the status of the second ACC competition for study abroad. Five study abroad programs were submitted and Virginia Tech is listed as a partner institution for each one. So we will be winning two programs since two have to be selected for funded.

6) John Dooley disbursed a handout based on the Board of Visitors meeting in March which discussed how education abroad programs will be funded for the next fiscal year. The second handout dealt specifically with program costs pertaining to CESA. John Dooley stated that different financial models need to be explored in order to lower costs for the students.

7) John Dooley discussed the recent Academic and Professional Trip to India. Members of the trip included:

- Charles W. Steger, President
- Ben J. Davenport, Rector
- Eugene V. Fife, VT Foundation
- John Dooley, Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs
- Richard E. Sorensen, Dean, Pamplin College of Business
- Glenda R. Scales, Associate Dean, College of Engineering

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

Initiatives of the program included: attending the S.P. Jain Institute of Management and Technology PGDSM-MIT Class of October 2004-March 2006 Graduation Ceremony; and also exploring new initiative opportunities with IIT Delhi, SP JAIN, Tata International, Tata Institute for Fundamental Science (TIFR) , Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Ashok-Leyland ,and IIT Madras (Chennai). The group returned very encouraged and looks forward to forging new collaborations. There is a ninety day plan in place to follow up on the opportunities. An India Plan is in place and includes:

- A University wide Steering Committee
- Four program areas for *initial* expansion
 - a) Biotechnology
 - b) Information Technology
 - c) Mechanical Engineering (specifically Automotive)
 - d) Nanotechnology

John Dooley then described two moments he classified as “grand canyon” moments (i.e. insightful and profound):

- Viewing the Taj Mahal
- Bangladesh: Specifically the number of people in Dhaka and seeing how the IPM CRSP project has helped the farmers working with *meager* resources to increase their production of crops, profitability, and safety. There are now over 60,000 farmers using information learned from this outreach and extension program.

8) S.K. De Datta quickly reported on the Bangladesh gender project that was initiated six years ago. It is a USAID funded project and they just released their Gender Atlas of Bangladesh book, a copy of which was passed around to the UCIA members.

He also mentioned that an Army contract and a contract involving Columbian alternate crops to drug crops are pending. They are in the final stages of negotiations; once all the details are locked in more information will be provided.

9) John Dooley thanked Jack Davis for his work as Chairperson of UCIA. Jack Davis asked to step down and will be replaced at the next meeting by Andrew Becker who will assume the position for a few years.

10) Jack Davis thanked the committee and informed them that Gene Egger is taking over the Chair of the Commission of Outreach and International Affairs for one year and so will be leaving the UCIA committee. Jack Davis will replace him on this committee and will therefore still be involved in it.

11) John Dooley offered a brief update about the CESA master plan. The Ferrari foundation charged his office with creating a master plan for the CESA facilities. The plan is underway and an overview has been received. The main goals are to make all needed facilities be located on the owned property. This includes new student and faculty lodging, renovating the stables into additional classrooms, and creating a larger dining/

multi-purpose room. July 21 the Board meets in Riva. He hopes they will accept the architects' report so that they can move forward with the expansion.

12) John Dooley briefed members on the Latin America/Mexico plan. Working with the International Strategic Plan as a guideline, they are working on developing a Center in Guanajuato, Mexico. They have received several promises regarding funding. This development will be brought to the forefront this summer and decisions will be made concerning all aspects of the Center. He wanted the committee members to be aware of this and direct them to the collaborating university's website for further information:
<http://www.ugto.mx/sitioug/ingles/estructurapagina/index.htm>

13) Andrew Becker shared the news that the Honors Committee won a grant for \$10,000 and thus funding for an Arabic class is now available. The Honors Students came up with the idea on their own and secured the funding so that a part time faculty member can be hired to teach the course.

14) John Dooley thanked the committee members for all their work.

Meeting adjourned.