

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

May 6th, 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  
Mike Bertelsen, Associate Director & Program Dir., Technical Assistance, OIRED  
Cynthia Bonner, Lecturer Admin, VP Student Affairs  
George Crofts, Associate Dean, College of Science  
Ron Daniel, Academic Director, Center for European Studies & Architecture  
Jack Davis, Chair of UCIA, College of Architecture and Urban Studies  
Debbie Day, Alumni Relations  
John Dooley, Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs  
Monika Gibson, Director of Student Services, Graduate School  
Tamara Kennelly, Library Systems  
Tarun Sen, Associate Dean, College of Business  
Judy Snoke, English Language Institute, Continuing Education  
Nammalwar Sriranganathan, College of Veterinary Medicine  
Kathleen Stadler-Thompson, Education Abroad, OIRED  
Jeremy Scott Billetdeaux, Education Abroad, OIRED  
Judith Shrum, Foreign Languages

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Action Items**

**I. Approval of minutes**

Minutes from April 15th, 2005 were distributed electronically and changes can be sent to Hope.

**Information Items**

**I. Bilateral exchange programs – Kathy Stadler-Thompson/Kim Beisecker/Jeremy Billetdeaux**

Stadler-Thompson passed around handouts. Presented the breakdown of programs, attendance, countries where we have bilateral exchanges. A bilateral exchange is when a student from another institution comes here and we send one of our students to the international institution.

We want to figure out a way to get this information to new faculty. There is an existing workshop – we need to get on the agenda. This information is also on the website, this particular slideshow could be added though.

Beisecker presented on coordinating support services – she passed around handouts of what a student receives pre/post arrival to Virginia Tech. Beisecker went through what an international student could expect before, upon and after arrival to the University in terms of support services from Cranwell Center. Support services include: meals, recreation and additional ways to help international students adjust.

The main problem Cranwell Center encounters with international students is late arrival. About 5% of the international graduate students arrive late and closer to 20% for the undergraduate students.

More communication is needed because of the differences in expectations from students and Cranwell Center i.e. support services.

## **II. Briefing Book – Board of Visitors draft – John Dooley**

Dooley passed around the first, final draft of the international booklet developed for the BOV retreat in June, 2005. President Steger is reviewing draft and it will be disseminated from there.

Dooley provided an update on the status of the retreat – there was a very good response, all except two board members will attend – they are all paying their own way which demonstrates the high level of commitment.

## **III. Announcements – John Dooley**

The Governor's Trade Mission – S. K. De Datta attended as representative from Virginia Tech. This mission sought to create and enhance the relationship between Virginia and other parts of the world. De Datta provided very positive feedback. We are trying to connect Virginia Tech faculty to trade missions – to promote the assets of higher education and Virginia Tech.

The Punta Cana initiative – we are hosting visitors from the Punta Cana leadership. They will sign an MOU and at that point Professors Joe Scarpaci and William Galloway will have students there. We are looking for it to become a real hub for Virginia Tech international initiatives.

Faculty Development Program – fourteen faculty (from each college except Natural Resources) are going to Europe on May 18<sup>th</sup> to our center in Riva. Each faculty is required to develop new international collaborations – either with research, teaching or outreach.

Monterrey Tech – we have a good partnership moving along. A group of eighteen to twenty-one people will be going to Monterrey Tech. We’re looking at the student programs and to develop more opportunities. Representatives from Monterrey Tech will be visiting Blacksburg in October.

East Asia – we have a draft MOU in the works to advance this collaboration between Intrus in Hong Zhou China and Virginia Tech.

Virginia Tech will host the first ACC Conference on November 8 and 9. Each participating institution will be limited to eight representatives. The Conference will be held at the new Skelton Center. We are also looking at how the ACC could be involved in international development.

#### **IV. Update on FLL proposal**

The proposal is still coming together – we have determined that the department needs eighteen new positions to realize the University’s international goals. The plan has been passed out to the college along with the ISDT Strategic Plan. The emphasis of our plan is proficiency rather than acquaintance with the language/culture.

#### **V. Faculty conversational language program – Andrew Becker**

We have all information in and ready to go for the conversational course for this fall. The class will be one night a week for a semester. The problem right now is over-demand.

Discussion on how to manage enrollment. Suggestions were: each college or department gets a certain amount of slots (number of people allowed to enroll), a morning class would ensure a better retention rate, list of preferred criteria for enrollment. Also need to look at competency levels of each person coming into the class. Bilateral exchange students could also be an asset to help teach these courses.

#### **VI. Miscellaneous**

Daniel announced the winners for the two University Exemplary Department Awards: Cranwell International and the Department of Human Development are this year’s winners.

Davis thanked everyone for his/her participation and adjourned meeting at 11:41 AM