

UCIA Meeting
Monday, August 15, 2016
10:30 a.m. – noon
International Affairs Offices, Conference Room A

Present:

David Clubb, *Director, Cranwell International Center*
Monika Gibson, *Director of Student Services, Graduate School*
Stephanie Hart, *Director of Academic Programs, College of Natural Resources and the Environment*
Elaine Humphrey, *Director, Rice Center for Leader Development, Corps of Cadets*
Theresa Johansson, *Director, Global Education Office*
Reed Kennedy, *Professor of Management, Pamplin College of Business*
Vicki Langford, *Registrar's Office*
Ian Leuschner, *Director, International Support Services*
John Lipsey, *Associate Director, Strategic Partnerships and Program Development, OIRED*
Gary Long, *Associate Dean for Curriculum and Instruction, College of Science*
Karl Markgraf, *Associate Vice President for International Affairs*
Shelby Miller, *Coordinator, Student-Athlete Development*
Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*
Gerhardt Schurig, *VMRCVM and International Programs Strategist, OIA*
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies and Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*
Judy Taylor, *Staff Senate; Office of the Provost*
Latanya Walker, *Director of Alumni Relations for Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement*
Samantha Winn, *University Libraries*

1. Welcome, introductions, and approval of April minutes

Chair David Clubb called the meeting to order and participants introduced themselves. A motion to accept the minutes of the April meeting was made by Theresa Johansson, seconded by Ian Leuschner, and approved unanimously.

2. Nomination of Vice Chair for 2016-17

The selection of a UCIA vice chair had been postponed when the May meeting was cancelled due to low attendance. Ian Leuschner had been recommended as a candidate for vice chair. David Clubb invited additional nominations but none were forthcoming and Ian was elected unanimously via voice vote.

3. Changes to UCIA Bylaws

Changes to the UCIA bylaws have been submitted to the group for review and consideration. These changes are primarily in response to comments made by President Sands' staff regarding designation of the UCIA as a "committee" rather than a "council". The UCIA serves as an advisory group to the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs and therefore is not directly a part of the campus governance process. Changes to the bylaws are primarily the replacing of all references to "council" with "committee." As per the bylaws, an amendment or modification must be on the agenda for two meetings before it can be voted on and moved forward to COIA for approval. UCIA members expressed their support of these changes, noting that recommendations for policy actions can still be sent to COIA and that the group can continue to work on specific projects.

4. Ideas for special guests, topics, projects for 2016-2017

a. International Enrollment Management

Currently 80% of international students are from just two countries. UCIA members see the need to diversify that group and leverage the international student population strategically to align with other partnerships. Karl Markgraf, Don Back, and Juan Espinoza (Office of Admissions) have met to discuss this topic. Dr. Markgraf will update the UCIA and request input as needed.

b. Peace Corps Preparatory Program

In 2015 Virginia Tech was ranked 11th overall nationally in Peace Corps recruiting. David Clubb suggested the UCIA can assist recruiting efforts by helping promote the Peace Corps preparatory program. This initiative aligns academic programs to prepare potential applicants while completing their general education requirements, giving them a competitive edge later regarding acceptance and placement opportunities. Dr. Markgraf had worked with this program during his time at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Current Peace Corps recruiter Cathie Bukowski has worked with OIRED's Larry Vaughan on this and could be invited to a UCIA meeting to present on this topic. The program fits well with both the university's objective to create "VT-shaped students" and the Pathways curriculum; additionally, "safety and security" is one of the new Destination Areas. These can all be tied into the preparatory program to create greater traction, and the Peace Corps enthusiastically supports such partnerships. An endorsement for this program can easily be ready to present for a recommendation to COIA.

c. Comprehensive Internationalization fee

Funding for international programs—scholarships and programming—continues to be an issue. Many US institutions charge a fee or have implemented different types and levels of fees depending on the category (US students, international students, etc.). Charging all students a nominal fee for international activities seems compatible with Virginia Tech's goal of becoming a global land grant university. UCIA members were in agreement that the funds should go directly to the units that are involved with this work rather than to a central administration or organization. Clear ideas for the spending need to be established in advance; these can include funding existing programs and should strive to produce measurable outcomes for services students are currently not receiving, such as increasing study abroad scholarships. Several campus units are undergoing a compliance audit in January and the preparatory work for that can potentially assist with identifying goals and best practices, such as benchmarking against the 24 State Council of Higher Education – Virginia (SCHEV) schools. There may be current funding sources available that have not yet been tapped into and caution needs to be taken to ensure that new revenue streams do not offset current financial resources. Throughout the year the group can explore different models, such as charging all incoming freshmen an internationalization fee, and survey study abroad alumni to get greater buy-in for these proposals.

d. Mozaiko (global living-learning community)

Last year a series of meetings were held for this initiative, with several UCIA members including David Clubb, Theresa Johansson, and Monika Gibson in attendance as unit representatives. David had met with Frank Shushok, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, to discuss the project which is tentatively set to launch next year but details have not yet been released. The group expressed interest in having a presentation to provide an update.

David Clubb asked for additional topics for discussion during the year with UCIA members suggesting the following:

- **Pursuing and managing strategic partnerships:** Ian Leuschner and Nicole Sanderlin have been working on this as well as a primer on development of MoUs. Others can also get involved with

this project, such as Chelsey Watts and John Lipsey, new faculty members working with strategic partnerships for GEO and OIRED, respectively. Software such as UCosmic can help track research and partnerships; purchasing this could be a line item for the comprehensive internationalization fee.

- **Implementation of the Global Education Approval Committee (GEAC):** Members are still being identified.
- **Recruiting an international development officer to help procure funding for scholarships:** Nicole Sanderlin had sent a list of talking points developed after vice president for advancement Charlie Phlegar attended a meeting last spring. Karl Markgraf, Gerhardt Schurig, and Nicole Sanderlin have met with him to discuss the subject and Guru Ghosh will become involved as well.
- **The International Education Policy Committee (IEPC):** This group will continue but will be convened on an as-needed basis and serve as a ready-to-go subcommittee of the UCIA.
- **Summer programs funding models:** This topic remains problematic. As currently structured they are costly and a disincentive to participation. Theresa Johansson and Karl Markgraf are discussing this and working with Tim Hodge, Assistant Vice President for Budget and Financial Planning, in hopes of mitigating some of these issues.

David Clubb recapped that the upcoming meetings will feature presentations on Mozaiko and the Peace Corps preparation program; the Mozaiko project proposal and the development officer talking points will be resent; Ian Leuschner will head the strategic partnership program, and benchmarks will be established for the comprehensive internationalization fee initiative.

5. Constituent reports

a. Outreach and International Affairs

Karl Markgraf reported that the university will host a delegation from Technical University of Darmstadt (TUD) September 12 – 14 to sign a strategic partnership agreement that will allow that institution to seek additional funding opportunities from the German government. Several faculty attended a German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) matchmaking workshop to help align research interests among schools; Virginia Tech might host this event in reciprocity in the future. Another group from an Armenian agricultural school affiliated with the InnovATE project will visit campus on September 22, and a group of visitors working with Rolf Müller's research at Shandong University, China, will arrive in November in conjunction with a trilateral project between the city, the university, and VT. The annual Knowledgeworks competition is winding down. VT-India is doing well; Guru Ghosh, Roop Mahajan, and Gene Ball traveled to India and noted that that construction of the facility has been completed and the initiative appears to be well-established. One option being considered is offering certificate programs. OIA is also assessing programs in Africa where VT has many projects but little connectivity between them. These need to be reviewed holistically to see which merit support and additional investment. OIA has hired a graduate assistant to work on this research. The Cranwell family owns a farm in South Africa and could be a resource for this project. Among other programs in Africa, Frank Shushok led a group to Kenya and partnerships Stellenbosch and Cape Town, South Africa, are being considered.

b. OIRED

John Lipsey, the new Associate Director for Strategic Partnerships and Program Development attended on behalf of Van Crowder. OIRED is investigating opportunities in Mozambique and Madagascar, partnering with the School of Education on Department of Education-funded grants in order to diversify from USAID-sponsored projects. An Integrated Pest Management project in Cambodia is closing down. A project with the European Union/Darmstadt looks promising as well; the office plans to continue the same type of development work they specialize in by engaging with strategic partners and corporations.

c. Global Education Office

Theresa Johansson announced several staff changes. Chelsey Watts began in April to work on strategic partnerships and Selma Haghamed recently arrived as the faculty support associate to work with faculty-led programs. Assistant Director for Student Services Bill Pruitt left for a position at the University of South Carolina. The search will have a very short turnaround time since this is a very critical position. The office has worked with Professor Carol Franco to get United Nations observer status which will in turn enable students to attend high-level discussions on climate change, a particularly exciting opportunity. Prior to his departure Bill Pruitt won a grant from the Department of Education to develop programs in throughout sub-Saharan Africa; the focus areas will be Senegal, Botswana, Ghana, and South Africa. This project will include curriculum mapping and a series of site visits, with the goal of sending the first cohort of students in fall 2017. Part of the agreement stipulates that Virginia Tech must support an African student in return. The program is not restricted to specific majors but rather is aimed at diversification of participants in regards to gender, race and discipline. The library has also started an exchange program in South Africa; Theresa has met with Karl Markgraf and Inga Haugen on this project.

d. International Support Services

Ian Leuschner reported that guidelines have been revised for short-term visitors. Researchers working for 90 days or less will be allowed to arrive on a B1 visitor visa. This process will be quicker and cheaper in order to facilitate participation. A federal requirement mandates that J-1 visa holders will be required to buy insurance; these visiting scholars can purchase the graduate student plan and join the risk pool, which lowers the cost significantly. Approximately 70% of the graduate students are on an assistantship and eligible for a waiver, which can be difficult to verify; therefore the cost is automatically billed and a waiver can be granted if necessary. Ian has been working with Monika Gibson and David Clubb to purchase Synopsis software to integrate with SEVIS batch software. Implementation of this should take 6 – 8 months although Ian anticipates that it would not be ready until Fall 2017. The Service Without Borders group that won the award to provide post-earthquake relief services to Nepal traveled there in May but has not yet reported back.

e. Cranwell International Center

David Clubb reported that there are 450 – 500 new international undergraduate students, with approximately 165 families that accompanied the new arrivals to assist them in settling in. Cranwell has also had some staff changes, including the departure of associate director Suzie Baker, so the office is considering ways to reorganize and restructure. The Center's website has been updated to the university's new style. David noted that International Education Week (IEW) is November 14 – 18; he is contemplating how to align campus-wide activities with this high-profile nation-wide event rather than with the annual Street Fair. The Graduate School used to coordinate programming for IEW but attendance at events was usually quite low; the initiative usually conflicted with Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) annual meeting, resulting in lack of participation from higher-level administrators; and students frequently left early for the Thanksgiving holiday. David added that he recently traveled to Germany on a Fulbright program for educators; Cynthia Bonner had also participated in this program several years earlier and had organized several related events. David was later contacted about the possibility for hosting a summer event for approximately 25 German students. He followed up with this inquiry at the NAFSA annual convention in May and learned this would be a three-week program with Virginia Tech responsible for housing, feeding, and providing programming for the group. David suggested working with Patty Raun and her "communicating science" program that was designed for scientists, health professionals, and engineers. This program is scheduled to transition to a center status in January. This could be a good opportunity for students who are not able to study abroad to get involved with a group

of international students. John Lipsey recommended that this be investigated to link to potential donors; Gary Long noted that the College of Science has a new dean and asked that they be involved with planning.

f. Graduate School

Monika Gibson reported that staff departures caused significant increases in their workload and an ensuing struggle to get all the necessary work done for the new cohort of international graduate students. Despite some delays they managed to complete everything and welcome approximately 450 new arrivals.

g. Corps of Cadets

Elaine Humphrey announced that they are continuing to implement programs to develop leadership and global ethical leaders in collaboration with David Clubb. One component of the “global leader” assignment is to connect with someone different to have coffee or dinner together and then to engage in some reflection as to how the experience impacted development as a global leader. The Corps plans to conduct an international development inventory to measure development and growth over students’ academic careers, and is considering introducing a one-credit course in global competency. There are five new international students in the Corps of Cadets

There was nothing else to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at noon. The next meeting is scheduled for September 19.