

University Council for International Affairs (UCIA)

September 6, 2007

325 Burruss Hall

10:30 – 12:00

Present:

Don Back, Director, English Language Institute

Andrew Becker, Chair of UCIA, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature

Mike Bertelsen, Assoc. Director OIRED and Assoc. Dean CALS

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

Tom Hammett, Professor, Wood Science and Forest Products

Paul Hover, Library Systems

Mary Marchant, Assoc. Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Miriam Rich, Communications Coordinator, OIRED

Greg Sagstetter, Assistant Director of the Alumni Association

Nicole Sanderlin, Graduate Student, Public & International Affairs

Glenda Scales, Assoc. Dean for Distance & Learning Education, College of Engineering

Barry Simmons, Director, Scholarships & Financial Aid

Judy Snoke, Director, Educational Conferences

Welcome:

1) Andrew Becker welcomed everyone to the first Fall 2007 meeting. The minutes from May 3, 2007 had been previously distributed electronically. These **minutes were approved**.

Information Items:

1) Mike Bertelsen thanked Nicole Sanderlin for preparing the informational item he distributed to the group: **“Goals and Objectives for Research and Scholarship.”** He noted that the “Current Status” column leaves a wide-open opportunity for interpreting the data. Mike also stated that there is an uneven amount of progress across the colleges. Of all the goals listed from the International Strategic Plan, Mike felt there were three which needed to receive the most focus:

- i) Goal XIII: enhance the visibility and recognition of Virginia Tech as a world-class research institute.
- ii) Goal XIV: expand the university’s international collaborative research programs to better contribute to Virginia Tech’s effort to become a top 30 research institution.
- iii) Goal XV: capitalize on the synergistic relationship between graduate education and international collaborative research to provide a higher quality educational

experience and stronger international research program.

Mike's evaluation regarding the university's progress for each of these three goals is as follows:

- i) Goal XIII: marginal progress
- ii) Goal XIV: good amount of progress
- iii) Goal XV: very little progress

He also noted that there is a large flaw in the data collection process since there is no reporting system which all the colleges adhere to.

2) Regarding Mike Bertelsen's presentation, members focused on the **issue of promoting study abroad programs**. There was universal agreement that the value of these programs has not been marketed to faculty members. Currently, many faculty members feel that the programs are too labor and time intensive and therefore detract from their research and weaken their chances of attaining tenure. Steve Duke asked members to suggest practical next steps which could be taken to help alleviate this misconception. The suggestions were as follows:

- a) Tom Hammett recommended that there be an emphasis on the advantages of writing peer-reviewed articles generated by each international trip. Faculty program leaders could mentor younger faculty members.
- b) Mary Marchant emphasized the importance of merging the scholarship of teaching and learning. There is a need to bring each experience gained from an international program out of the classroom and to make it public information. Such methods could entail a lecture, article, on-line blog, etc.
- c) S.K. De Datta pointed out that young faculty members need to be taught how to write a strong academic paper, where to submit them, and where to seek funding.
- d) John Dooley added to S.K.'s remarks that the faculty members also must be taught how to integrate the work they produce from the international programs into the tenure approval process. They must understand how they can use it to their advantage since the tenure process itself will not change.

3) The UCIA members approved a motion to use fifteen minutes during each subsequent meeting to ask a **member from each college to present an update on their internationalization objectives**. The selected college representative will be responsible for updating their section of the International Strategic Plan data collection graphs. Additionally, Glenda Scales will be invited to discuss the International Advocacy Group.

4) S.K. De Datta provided an **update on Regional Programs and new initiatives**:

- a) Guanajuato, Mexico: the proposal and budget are complete. More input is being collected from our host institution and then the entire proposal will be submitted to CONACYT.
- b) Punta Cana, Dominican Republic: John Dooley and S.K. are setting up contacts with Ted Kheel at the NASULGC meeting. Infrastructure requirements are being developed.

c) India Initiative: The second Advisory Committee Meeting is being planned for the first week in December. There is a bill currently in the Indian Parliament pertaining to education initiatives being established in India which will determine the degree requirements, etc. This has caused a delay in outlining the VT procedures. The consulting firm KPMG will decipher the legislation and submit a report to VT.

5) John Dooley offered an update on the **Oman Education Project**. VT is assisting in the structuring of a four-year Baccalaureate degree program in Oman which would be non-VT branded. In the next six months the VT team members will go on-site to determine: feasibility, organizational development, implementation strategies, and sustained quality control.

6) John Dooley informed member that he was approached by a Hokie father who happens to head the **United States Department of Defense' s educational recovery activities in Iraq**. He wants VT to send faculty members or PhD students on short-term (1-2 weeks) all-expense paid experiences to Iraq. Kurdistan would be the destination and the point is to build collegial relationships, give short lectures, and help identify potential research projects. Three educational institutions in Iraq would be involved in this exchange. John asked the UCIA committee ~~is-if~~ this opportunity should be ~~pursuespursued~~; the members asked that he collect more information first and have it brought up in a future meeting.

7) Steve Duke presented **Education Abroad issues**. First, there needs to be a method to connect faculty tuition and academic costs for faculty-led programs. Other institutions are doing this by charging an administrative fee. Steve will collect data on this and present the information at a future meeting after submitting a preliminary report to S.K. and John.

Steve distributed a flyer on the **Education Abroad Fair** which will take place on the Drillfield Wednesday, September 26th from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. He passed out another flyer regarding the information sessions **“Getting Started with Education Abroad.”**

Meeting Adjourned at 12:10 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sarah Mitchem