

University Council for International Affairs (UCIA)
September 7, 2006
325 Burruss Hall
10:30 – 12:00 noon

Present:

Andrew Becker, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature
Kim Beisecker, Director, Cranwell International Center
Michael Bertelsen, Assoc. Director OIRED and Assoc. Dean CALS
Cynthia Bonner, Lecturer Administration, VP Student Affairs
Jack Davis, Chair of UCIA, College of Architecture and Urban Studies
Debbie Day, Alumni Relations
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
Valerie Hardcastle, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
Paul Hover, Library Systems
Wayne Neu, Assoc. Professor, Aerospace and Ocean Engineering (for Glenda Scales)
Miriam Rich, Communications Coordinator, OIRED
Stephen Skripak, Interim Assoc. Dean of Graduate and Int'l Programs, Dean of Business
Richard Shryock, Assoc. Professor, Foreign Languages and Literature
Barry Simmons, Director, Scholarships & Financial Aid
Judy Snoke, Director, English Language Institute.

Welcome:

1) Andrew Becker welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes from 5.4.2006 had been previously distributed electronically. These **minutes were approved**.

Information Items:

1) For discussion purposes Steven Duke distributed hardcopy drafts of the **Resolution Regarding Student Responsibilities For Education Abroad Programs** policy sheet. UCIA members reviewed the paperwork and offered their editorial suggestions. Steven Duke will incorporate the agreed upon changes and submit a new draft reflecting those changes to the UCIA committee via e-mail before the next meeting (10.5.2006).

2) Steven Duke provided the committee members with a hardcopy of the **Education Abroad/OIRED Scholarship Application**. Scholarships are available to students who participate in VT-managed programs (semester-long and short-term programs), bilateral and ISEP exchanges, VT Direct, and non-VT programs. Typical amounts awarded are:

\$1000 for year-long programs, \$500 for semester-long programs, and \$300 for summer programs.

To apply for the scholarships students must meet the following criteria:

- Be a current Virginia Tech student in good standing
- Be enrolled in a Virginia Tech degree program at the time of participation in the education abroad program
- Attend a credit-bearing academic program that either awards Virginia Tech credit or allows transfer credits to be awarded to Virginia Tech

Steven requested that four people volunteer to serve on the evaluation committee to determine which students will be awarded the scholarships. The following members offered their services:

- Barry Simmons
- Andrew Becker
- Kim Beisecker

Wayne Neu also suggested asking Cheryl Peed (Coordinator for Instructional & Research Services) to join the committee.

3) Steven Duke updated the committee on the recent developments concerning the **Studio Abroad** database for tracking education abroad students. The software has been installed on the university server; however, due to technical details concerning security measures there has been a delay in connecting it to the Banner system. This glitch is expected to be resolved within a week or two, at which point the new website will be launched.

4) Jeremy Billetdeaux informed the committee about the **Strategies For An International Career** seminar. Hosted on Monday, September 25th, by Jean-Marc Hachey there will be information sessions for students from 12:00 – 2:00 pm or 7:00 – 9:00 pm in the Haymarket Theater and for career advisors from 9:30 – 10:15 am in the Career Services Building. The lectures will focus on strategies for finding international work, elements of international resumes and international interviews, and how to target your job search and sell your international skills. Advertising strategies for this event included posting ads in the paper, sending an e-mail out on the list serve, and noting the event on the VT homepage.

5) Jeremy Billetdeaux gave flyers promoting the **Education Abroad Fair** to members of the committee and asked them to post them within their department. The event will take place on September 26, 2006, from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm on the drillfield.

6) Steven Duke presented members with a sample from the **Education Abroad Interest Survey**. Information was collected from over 1,800 students using survey.vt.edu. This survey will be repeated each year. Currently Australia has a large lead as the country most students wish to visit. However, the Education Abroad program is trying to diversify the destination interests.

7) John Dooley informed members of **Peter McPherson's visit to the Virginia Tech** campus last Friday and Saturday. He spent most of the morning looking into the international program policies and programs offered by Virginia Tech. He clearly defined the Lincoln Commission agenda as one of his major objectives and asked our university community to help ensure its approval by signing on to support it.

Peter also raised the issue that Virginia Tech does not have a system in place to determine if a faculty-led program should be called off due to safety concerns. John suggested that the creation of a committee to review high-risk programs and determine if they should proceed be set as an issue for one of the UCIA agendas in the near future.

8) S.K. De Datta updated members on the **Regional Strategies**. There are five areas currently being focused on:

- Riva san Vitale (CESA)
- Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
- Guanajuato, Mexico
- Asia Initiative (India initially)
- Africa Initiative (South Africa initially)

There are four program areas for *initial* initiative in India:

- Biotechnology
- Information Technology
- Mechanical Engineering (specifically Automotive)
- Nanotechnology

John Dooley will lead another group to India in October 2006 to strengthen the initiatives for collaborate with Indian universities and institutions.

Josiah Tlou and Jim Turner are currently in Africa to develop VT initiatives in Africa. We will receive a report from them a short time after their return.

9) S.K. De Datta briefly mentioned some highlights concerning **OIRED new initiatives**:

- Have completed an Aquaculture proposal. It is a nine million dollar project and they face five competitors.
- Mike Bertelsen, Larry Vaughan and a consultant named John Mullenax are working on the West Africa Cotton Improvement Program (WACIP) proposal.
- A subgrant draft is on hand for the Columbia Alternative Crops project funded by USAID.

10) John Dooley discussed the **November 20-21, 2006, ACC Conference** which will be held in Durham, North Carolina. He asked that members volunteer to go on the all expenses paid trip to participate in the conference. The call for proposals (for 2008) will be issued in early January and awarded in June. Multi-discipline proposals appear to be favored according to the award track record.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 pm.