

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

September 14, 2004
325 Burruss Hall
10:00 – 11:30 PM

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 Dean College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
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
S. K. De Datta, Associate Provost for International Affairs and Director of OIRED
LuAnn Gaskill, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Human Sciences
Monika Gibson, Director of Student Services, Graduate School
Dixon Hanna, Associate Provost
Robert Schubert, Director, School of Public and International Affairs
Tarun Sen, Associate Dean, College of Business
Judy Snoke, English Language Institute Outreach and International Affairs
Nammalwar Sriranganathan, College of Veterinary Medicine
John Crunkilton, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Rien Visser, College of Natural Resources
John Dooley, Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs
Paul Hover for Tamara Kennelly, Library Systems

Members not present:

Charlene Brewster, OIRED, Education Abroad
David Brugh, Development
Debbie Day, Alumni Relations
Gene Egger, Director Special Programs, College of Architecture
Mark McNamee, Provost
Steven Milley, Undergraduate Admissions
David Ostroth, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
John Randolph, Director, School of Public and International Affairs
Barry Simmons, Director, Scholarships & Financial Aid
Nammalwar Sriranganathan, College of Veterinary Medicine

Welcome and Introductions.

Committee makes introductions for new and returning members.

Action Items

I. Approval of minutes

Minutes from April 29th, 2004 meeting were approved.

Information Items

I. Accomplishments from last year and desires for this year's council – Jack Davis

Thanks to John Dooley for initiating and appointing a committee of four faculty to reword and adjust the university promotion and tenure guidelines to reflect the importance of both outreach and international affairs in the dossiers of candidates.

The Alumni Awards for Excellence in International Education and Excellence in International Outreach and Research should also be added to the website.

The faculty resource guide on the OIRED website is difficult to get to – it should be easier and not include passwords. If we are trying to direct people towards a guide – and we want the guide to be well circulated and familiar, it should not be difficult to get to. This prevents people from “re-inventing the wheel”.

Memorandum from Fred Weaver in Risk Management was noted and recommended for giving information about faculty traveling – it should possibly be a “read me first” for guidelines.

Miriam Rich explained the reason for restricted access to the guidelines online. Some of the issues discussed are sensitive i.e. procedures for a student's death abroad. The idea was that any professor involved in study abroad could call the study abroad office and receive the necessary passwords.

Discussion on need for password protected sight versus need for easy access to guidelines. Committee decided certain aspects of sight may be restricted but comprehensive guidelines will be available to public.

De Datta also mentioned OIRED could post policies developed last year by Dooley, O'Brien and De Datta.

Davis – policy 225 could also be upfront – for anyone to see/read.

Another future agenda item should be the need for Italian language study offered by Virginia Tech. Right now it is offered on a course by course basis – we need a comprehensive on-campus program. De Datta mentioned that language programs have been a large topic of discussion in ISDT meetings.

Davis asked committee if there are other items to be added to future agendas. UCIA is important for incubating ideas.

Daniel reported on CESA – We are developing a “Citizenship Policy” (and a revised alcohol policy). Consideration of these policies has raised additional issues. We might want to present the citizenship policy to UCIA particularly because other universities are challenged with similar problems (recent NY Times article).

Sen brought up CIBER – Center for International Business and Research. These are funded by the Department of Education. The Pamplin College of Business is planning to propose a VT CIBER to the Department of Education. This is an interdisciplinary effort and requires collaboration with other departments like Foreign Languages and Literatures. Once the rough draft of the proposed program is available, Sen will disseminate to the committee. There are 30 CIBERs in existence today. The Department of Education considers new applications and renewals every four years. The next cycle is in November 2005. There is a BIE (Business and Int'l Education) grant that we could apply for this year in preparation for the proposal next year.

Davis asked that Sen keep committee updated on what he needs from UCIA.

De Datta asked for committee input on updating website information. Davis will add that as first agenda item for the next meeting. Members will bring website suggestions to next meeting and we will display the website at the meeting.

Davis asked that committee note the time change – all other meetings will be at 10:30 am, only first meeting was 10:00 am.

II. Upcoming year for UCIA – John Dooley

Dooley welcomed and thanked everyone for being present.

Dooley reminded everyone of committee's charge – it is three fold:

- 1) Communication and Advocacy – To facilitate communication – bring issues and opportunities to the table and communicate to colleagues and peers **as well as** to represent those groups and constituents.
- 2) Coordination – We are all playing in different fields – this group can coordinate and work together for opportunities and ways to coordinate groups.
- 3) Initiation – Committee needs to look outside the box to better serve our constituents. Dooley said he is looking forward to the report from ISDT – UCIA will implement what ISDT puts forward. ISDT implementation will be large part of future agendas.

These three are the primary and most important roles of the Council.

Dooley updated council on awards on website – the alumni awards winners (historical) are now posted on the website. That resource is now available.

Dooley also updated Council on the ACC initiatives. The president's of the ACC want to create a high profile academic initiative. A group worked on this initiative this summer and the presidents are meeting to discuss them on September 27th and 28th. The four major thrusts of this initiative are:

- 1) To enhance the visibility of international affairs as it relates to universities. Part of this would include a thirty second spot at sports games.
- 2) To enhance education abroad with:
 - a. greater coordination of facilities abroad
 - b. new program areas – areas of the world that one institution could not support
 - c. cross reference education abroad with ACC university students
- 3) Facilitate development – create learning experience to advance the international experiences.
- 4) Area of assessment.

Dooley will report back to UCIA on outcome of the meetings.

Dooley requested we have a CESA update at future meeting. Andrew Becker can present on enhancing program offers within Interdisciplinary programs for the summer.

Becker explained they are running a two week summer pilot program.

Dooley mentioned another agenda item to look at – faculty development strategy/program – something that could be held on an annual basis.

Dooley – International strategic partnerships – explained the visit from Laura Medina, representative for Monterray Tech. Partnerships with international programs create win-

win collaborations. We need to look at different ways we market to graduate students and focus on working with other university's students. An agreement with CONACYT is under discussions – we are finalizing the agreement with them. CONACYT is an entity in Mexico equivalent to NSF in the US. As for information on the MIT program it is scheduled to be offered in India. Similarly a joint graduate program is being initiated with the Arab Academy of Science and Technology in Alexandria, Egypt. Virginia Tech proposed to create a joint PhD program in Electrical Engineering. We need to continue to push these bounds if we are serious about being a world class university.

Dooley – ISDT – We are committed to raising our international visibility at Virginia Tech. Miller has talked to the governor and secretary of trade – at the state level – to trade Virginia products. We have a great resource in our hokies abroad especially those in leadership positions. We should leverage these alumni – the governor will work with us to engage these alumni. This is an area we have not been strong on in the past – we are learning with this initiative. We will work with the Alumni Association to create this initiative – engage them as program partners.

Dooley mentioned the new MOU website/database. Rich explained how to use database - searchable by categories: country, city, institute, year, active and inactive.

Davis suggested a standing agenda item should be for Council members to bring newly executed MOU's to meetings – to include brief description.

III. Update on International Affairs – including; ISDT, Int'l Support Services, CESA and OIRED – S. K. De Datta

De Datta spoke about new exciting initiatives in OIRED – a grant for \$1,000/each, ten grants at a time, once in mid-November, once in mid-March/April. The decision will come from university wide committee – so not directly from OIRED.

International Support Services – Jerry Berkley-Coats is doing a great job in doing the paperwork for H1B and J1 visas.

Berkley-Coats will also be PBD liaison with Charlene Brewster's departure.

Ron Daniel – update on CESA celebration in July – one evening recognized the critical collaborative relationship between CESA, the town of Blacksburg and the town of Riva San Vitale. Approximately two hundred townspeople attended the renewal of Blacksburg's relationship with Riva recognizing formal agreements between the two Town Councils. This indicated the possible need for more regular open houses/events to recognize the town of Riva San Vitale's relationship to Blacksburg. Another event featured as well – the celebration of Lucy and Olivio Ferrari's contributions to CESA, and in a concluding event for the celebration, President Steger addressed future plans, initiatives and the role of CESA.

Dooley – we hosted the rector and his spouse from the Board of Visitors for four days in Switzerland. He was so impressed and said it was such an eye-opening experience that the Board of Visitors will be doing a retreat in CESA next June. The discussion for that will be “What does it mean to be a world class university?”

Supthin gave an update on the Punta Canta initiative. The MOU will be signed soon. Supthin explained about the new facility and is looking to talk to faculty members who may be interested in teaching classes. Video conference capabilities are being set up – Ted Kheel (property owner) is working with the president of Verizon to facilitate.

IV. Presentation on ISDT from the chair – S. K. De Datta

Power point presentation on ISDT – inception, objective, progress and goal.

Daniel said he has an updated version of the undergraduate document which will be posted on the website by Friday.

Short discussion on ISDT. Vaughan commented that it is better to solicit input from the draft than the more finalized version. Dooley – these commissions and council groups are more advisory and we need to engage our colleagues in these conversations. Documents will be on website soon but ISDT group would like to gather input from commissions before posting for general university community. De Datta office will let committee know when drafts are up on website. It will also be sent to the DDD list.

Dooley suggested UCIA should have an annual review of the documents ISDT is completing. Dooley commented that metrics need to be included.

Short discussion on metrics, benchmarks. Davis commented that this could be re-visited – it could have different phases.

Beisecker asked that committee please spread word on international, non-student gathering event on October 8th.

Davis adjourned meeting at 11:35 AM.