

UCIA Meeting
Monday, September 19, 2016
10:30 a.m. – noon
International Affairs Offices, Conference Room A

Present:

Jacqueline Bixler, *Department Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures*
David Clubb, *Director, Cranwell International Center*
Van Crowder, *Director, Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRE)*
Debra Eason, *Global Engagement Specialist, College of Engineering*
Monika Gibson, *Director of Student Services, Graduate School*
Stephanie Hart, *Director of Academic Programs, College of Natural Resources and the Environment*
Alex Hyler, *Graduate Student Assembly*
Ian Leuschner, *Director, International Support Services*
John Lipsey, *Associate Director, Strategic Partnerships and Program Development, OIRE*
Gary Long, *Associate Dean for Curriculum and Instruction, College of Science*
Karl Markgraf, *Associate Vice President for International Affairs*
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*
Danny White, *Associate Director, Student-Athlete Development, Athletics*

Guests:

Andrea Brunais, *Communications Director, Outreach and International Affairs*
Catherine Bukowski, *Virginia Tech Peace Corps Recruiter*
La'Teashia Sykes, *Peace Corps Program Specialist*

1. Welcome, introductions, and approval of August minutes

Chair David Clubb called the meeting to order and participants introduced themselves. David welcomed Graduate Student Assembly representative Alex Hyler to the meeting. A motion to accept the minutes of the August meeting was made by Monika Gibson, seconded by Jackie Bixler, and approved unanimously.

2. Changes to UCIA Bylaws

David Clubb reminded the group that proposed changes to the bylaws needed to be on the agenda this month as well as last, when the topic was introduced and discussed. The changes consist of edits necessary to accurately reflect the UCIA's name change from council to committee as per university convention. There was no further discussion and a motion to accept the changes were made by Ian Leuschner and seconded by Gerhardt Schurig. The motion passed unanimously and the matter will now be forwarded to the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA).

3. Peace Corps Preparatory Program

Virginia Tech Peace Corps recruiter Catherine Bukowski attended to present on the Peace Corps Preparatory Program, which seeks to compile course listings that would help potential Peace Corps applicants prepare for international work in general and give them a competitive edge as candidates. The Peace Corps routinely develops programs such as this and the Master's program, which is being phased

out. Materials for the preparatory program were distributed to attendees. There are four competencies that potential applicants work to meet: training and experience in specific work sectors; foreign language skills; intercultural competence; and professional and leadership development. Partner institutions work with students to develop a road map to achieve these goals, which include volunteer service as well as coursework. Students receive a certificate upon completion of the program. Cathie discussed the four competencies in greater detail; since candidates are now allowed to choose potential assignments from a list of available postings, working towards the competencies allows them to develop skills relevant to where they hope to serve. This program also offers structured guidance to students interested in the Peace Corps and hoping to become strong applicants.

The group engaged in further discussion of this subject. Institutions implementing the preparatory program have had few significant challenges beyond minor issues typical to starting a new program of any sort. They are free to set up the program in individual ways. Numbers of participants varies depending on the size of the institution and marketing of the program. Submitting a proposal includes providing course listings and other documentation. A dedicated website is required for this program and other matters will have to be determined, such as which department would manage the program and where would the office be housed. There are flexible options for advising as well. The proposal would be due December 1. The group agreed that this program is valuable and many of the components are already in place. This could also be incorporated into the Pathways program or a minor. The certificate is a resume builder that is attractive to any government agency. The Peace Corps is becoming more competitive since the economic collapse in 2008; many alumni use it as a gateway towards work in the State Department.

The consensus was that this is a program the university should promote and support. Enrollment in the Peace Corps had dropped last year to 11, indicating a need to boost recruitment here at Virginia Tech. The proposal is not particularly complicated and creating a minor that incorporates this would make it even more attractive. It could also prepare participants for Boren and Fulbright programs. Completing the application by December 1 would be ambitious but doable. Team members would include Karl Markgraf, Cathie Bukowski, and incoming Peace Corps recruiter Rachael Kennedy. Jackie Bixler would also provide support from Foreign Languages and Literature; other participants could include VT-Engage and the Corps of Cadets for the service learning and leadership components, respectively. Dr. Markgraf agreed to take the lead.

4. Charlie Phlegar memo and meeting

David circulated the memo sent at the end of last academic year to vice president for Advancement Charlie Phlegar regarding a prioritized list for funding of global initiative. The COIA is also discussing this matter and a meeting is being set up with Charlie, David, Karl Markgraf, and Guru Ghosh.

5. Constituent reports

a. Outreach and International Affairs

Karl Markgraf reported that all went well with the visit from the Technical University of Darmstadt (TUD) delegation consisting of the university president and several of his staff. This agreement has been identified as a strategic partnership which enables them to compete for funding within the European Union. Virginia Tech would like to host an event similar to the one held at TUD last summer in which faculty were identified and partnered in collaborative research projects. This institution is proving to be an excellent partner. A new six-week study abroad program is being developed in conjunction with a partnership with Cape Coast University in Ghana that will include three weeks of service learning. The Steger Center is poised to enjoy a resurgence in program participants as a new initiative engaging all college deans is implemented; this program will focus on food, water, and energy security.

b. OIRED

Van Crowder announced that a news article featuring the Integrated Pest Management Innovation Lab's research on the *Tuta absoluta* pest was featured in the New York Times. He thanked Andrea Brunais and IPM communications coordinator Stephanie Parker for their work on the article. Later this month the rector of the Armenian National Agrarian University will visit campus and meet with President Sands. The ERA Senegal project has been extended an additional two years. The office is working on several project proposals, many of which will be funded by entities other than USAID such as the Institute for International Education and World Learning. They hope to take a country focus; i.e., apply for projects in countries where they have already wrapped up a successful program.

c. Global Education Office

The Fall Fair will be held on the Drillfield on Wednesday, September 21 from 10 – 4.

d. International Support Services

Ian Leuschner reported that he is meeting with team members from the multi-disciplinary student group Service Without Borders that won the award to do reconstruction work in post-earthquake Nepal. He will update the UCIA at the next meeting.

e. Cranwell International Center

David Clubb reminded the group that there is a call for proposals for International Education Week activities, to be held November 14 – 18. He added that the process to implement the new batch software Synapsis is progressing and there will be a team meeting on Friday to discuss that. This year's international tailgate will be held Saturday, September 24 at the Graduate Life Center.

There was nothing else to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 17.