

Draft Minutes

University Council for International Affairs (UCIA)

October 4, 2005

325 Burruss Hall

10:30 – 12:00 noon

Present:

Andrew Becker, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

Kim Beisecker, Director, Cranwell International Center

Mike Bertelsen, Associate Director & Program Dir., Technical Assistance, OIRED

Jeremy Billetdeaux, Senior Coordinator for Education Abroad

Cynthia Bonner, Lecturer Admin, VP Student Affairs

George Crofts, Associate Dean, College of Science

Ron Daniel, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and Academic Director, CESA

Jack Davis, Chair of UCIA, College of Architecture and Urban Studies

S.K. De Datta, Associate Provost for International Affairs and Director, OIRED

Steve Duke, Associate Director, Education Abroad

John Hess, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Paul Hover, University Libraries

Vinod Lohani, Engineering Education

Sedki Riad, Electrical Engineering

Miriam Rich, Special Assistant to the Director of OIRED for Communications

Nicole Sanderlin, Graduate Assistant to John Dooley

Richard Shryock, Foreign Languages

Barry Simmons, Director, Scholarships and Financial Aid

Judith Snoke, Director, Educational Conferences

Welcome and introductions.

1. The **minutes from the September 1 meeting** were approved.
2. S.K. De Datta discussed the **Outreach NOW conference**, which took place at the Skelton Conference Center September 28-29. The conference was deemed a great success. It summarized all the activities of Outreach and International Affairs and included an outstanding keynote address by Martin Jischke, the president of Purdue University. In the address, Jischke championed scholarship and engagement, as opposed to outreach, but S.K. feels that the title “Outreach” is good for Virginia Tech. Another focus of Outreach NOW was a discussion about Promotion and Tenure policies. Four faculty members were invited to give their perspectives on outreach and its impact on their professional advancement. Jack Davis expressed his admiration for the displays at the conference. He recognized the amount of work that went into the displays and the conference and suggested that the **conference become a bi-annual event rather than an annual one**. John Hess suggested that the UCIA should send a letter of appreciation to Jeri Childers and other conference organizers. S.K. added that Andrew Natsios of USAID was invited to come but regrettably could not make it.
3. S.K. then discussed the upcoming **ACC International Conference**, which will be held at the Skelton Conference Center November 3-4. Virginia Tech will be heavily involved in the

conference. The keynote speaker will be Nicolas Burns, Undersecretary of State and former U.S. Ambassador to NATO. The keynote address will be by invitation only (all registered conference attendants will automatically be invited.) Virginia Tech gets 15 time slots at the conference. S. K. announced that submissions are currently being accepted for collaborative education abroad program grants. The deadline is November 14. Andy Becker pointed out that Virginia Tech faculty can't compete very well because they don't have much expertise in non-western languages and cultures, a requirement of the grant program. S.K. acknowledged that language skills are a major problem among the faculty. Richard Shryock suggested that foreign language skills ought to be more of a priority among students as well, particularly engineering and science majors, who aren't encouraged to take foreign language courses. Vinod Lohani and Jack Davis pointed out that the engineering and architecture programs don't leave much room for non-technical courses like foreign languages but that students are not discouraged from taking such courses. Paul Hover pointed out that the university libraries are well prepared for research assistance in many languages. Library faculty and staff members are proficient in many languages, both western and non-western.

4. S.K. then discussed his recent **visit to China** with John Dooley. He gave a brief overview of the regional center strategy, which includes CESA, Punta Cana, Monterrey Tech, and proposed hubs in China and other locations. The strategy includes a regional center in East Asia, but there had been some disagreement over where the center should be located within the region. Korea was considered but was deemed impractical, so China looked like a good bet. Virginia Tech has teamed up with VT alumnus Hampton Carver's Richmond-based company, which is building a research and business center called Apollo Park in Hangzhou, China. Jim Hyatt, John Dooley, Dean Kelly, and S.K. visited Hangzhou, which is two hours west of Shanghai, in September. Since then, the business side of the collaboration has been jeopardized, but the academic collaboration is still moving forward. Dean Quisenberry and three others will be visiting Hangzhou in November, which shows that Virginia Tech is strongly committed to the project. The center will be a hub for collaborations with other universities in Asia.
5. S.K. then discussed the **Punta Cana regional center** in the Dominican Republic. Four Virginia Tech colleges are expected to offer a collaborative semester-long course taught by six faculty members in overlapping three-week sessions. OIRED sponsored a student poster design contest to promote the new course. Tourism/Hospitality Management and Biodiversity will be major themes in Virginia Tech's programs at Punta Cana. Joe Scarpaci and Bill Galloway have already started a socioeconomic project in a small village called Veron as part of the Virginia Tech plan, and a biodiversity symposium is planned for February 2006. S.K., Larry Grossman, and Richard Perdue will go to Punta Cana for another planning meeting to introduce local partners later this month. Andy Becker pointed out the financial needs of the faculty members who will be teaching the three-week sessions, since they will not be able to teach on-campus courses for that semester. S.K. assured him that he has been working on funding with Jake Kheel, Virginia Tech's main contact at Punta Cana.

6. Vinod Lohani gave a presentation on the **International Faculty Development** program that took place this summer at CESA. As recommended by the International Strategic Plan, two faculty members from each college were selected (a total of 13 faculty members participated). They met for a mini-retreat in Blacksburg and then headed to CESA, where they learned about the area and worked on individual collaborative projects with European universities.
7. Sedki Riad offered to save his announcement for the next meeting, due to time constraints.
8. Steve Duke gave a brief overview of the **education abroad fair** that took place on September 28. There were tables for 25 faculty-led programs and 12 third-party programs. He estimated that 3,000-5,000 students came to the fair. There was a tremendous amount of student interest. He offered his thanks to Jeremy Billetdeaux, Shannon Dove, and all the other people who made the fair such a success. S.K. agreed and said the event was great.
9. Miriam Rich announced the **World Food Day 2005 Teleconference**, which will be held on October 14 from 12:00 to 3:00 in 1800 Litton Reaves Hall. It will feature a keynote address by Frances Moore Lappe, a film about world hunger, and a question and answer session.
10. Mike Bertelsen reminded everyone that the deadline for the **competitive small grants program** is November 14.
11. Kim Beisecker announced a Radford/Cranwell International Center **collaborative conference** on international business for local business people who want to work with Japan and India. She also discussed the upcoming **World Game**, an event where 400-800 participants meet to discuss global issues. She passed around a handout with **statistics on international students**. She also announced that **Hokies United** have raised \$52,000 and are planning events including face-painting before home games, a 5K run for hurricane relief, a casino night, and the world's biggest pillow fight.
12. Jack Davis **adjourned the meeting** at 12:00.