

UCIA Meeting
October 9, 2008 10:30-12:00
International Affairs Office Meeting Room A

Present

Don Back, *Director, English Language Institute*
Mike Bertelsen, *Associate Director, OIRED and Associate Dean, CALS*
Jeremy Billetdeaux, *Assistant Program Director for Education Abroad, OIRED*
Cynthia Bonner, *Chief of Staff and Director of Administration, Student Affairs*
Laurie Brogdon, *Director of Multicultural Alumni Programs, Alumni Relations*
John Browder, *Associate Dean, College of Architecture and Urban Studies*
Leter Daku, *Senior Manager, Research and Planning, Financial Aid Administration*
John Dooley, *Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs*
Paul Hover, *Library Technical Services*
Mary Marchant, *Associate Dean and Director of Academic Programs, CALS*
Lance Matheson, *Associate Professor, Pamplin College of Business*
Miriam Rich, *Communications Coordinator, OIRED*
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*

1. Welcome and introductions

The meeting was called to order by UCIA chair Lance Matheson, who asked for approval of the minutes from the September 4 meeting. As per clarification by Jeremy Billetdeaux, the minutes will be corrected to accurately reflect the number of students participating in outbound Education Abroad programs this fall. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Mike Bertelsen and seconded by Paul Hover and passed unanimously.

2. Education Abroad issues

Jeremy Billetdeaux announced that the new Program Director for Education Abroad, Dr. Matthew McMullen, has been hired and will begin on October 10.

Past issues regarding the food and dietary form students are asked to sign were reintroduced as a topic of discussion. Legal counsel had reviewed the current document and stated that, as worded, it is in violation of FERPA policy; the form will be revised according to their recommendations. Students should bear more of the burden for providing this information rather than making it the responsibility of the faculty to collect it. Dr. Dooley suggested that explanation of this procedure be presented as an opportunity for voluntary disclosure in order to facilitate health and safety concerns and that it is not intended to serve as a means to determine an individual's participation in a program.

The following subject to be addressed was whether or not a portion of proceeds from fees paid by Education Abroad students should be returned to the respective departments sponsoring the programs. Dr. Dooley explained that much of the growth in the Education Abroad has been from the faculty-led programs and that students are paying not only tuition to participate in these events, but a program fee as well. In order to continue offering affordable options for students while providing incentives for faculty to develop and lead programs, some sort of modification to the existing fee structure should be considered. Dr. Dooley offered two suggestions:

- charge a nominal (\$12 – 25) fee per student, per semester to be used for internationalization purposes (including scholarships), or
- reimburse the tuition paid by students in Education Abroad programs to those various departments.

Although any definitive action will wait until after Dr. McMullen arrives, the item was briefly discussed; participants felt that this is not a policy matter but an administrative issue and should be addressed by the senior administrative leadership. Dr. Matheson pointed out that some departments do not have the funding to pay for faculty during the summer months and the recent economic downturn affecting the country will most likely also have a negative impact on all summer programs.

Jeremy reported that the Education Abroad fair held on the Drillfield on September 24 was a huge success, with the highest turnout ever for faculty and student participation. Dr. Matheson commended the Education Abroad staff for having organized this event. Jeremy will also be attending the ACCIAC Biennial Conference in Miami November 7 – 11 and offered to convey any comments and concerns of council members to that meeting.

Mary Marchant suggested that, upon his arrival, an invitation be extended to Dr. McMullen to meet with each of the academic deans.

3. Informational issues

Mike Bertelsen reported that the faculty small grants program has been publicized widely through various campus media; requests will be accepted through November 15. The Humphries Fellows program application was submitted and a response is expected by February 2009. Notification of renewal of CRSP awards is still pending, but the program planning is proceeding in the meantime.

Don Back mentioned that the ELI has created a new international student diversity scholarship that will pay 50% of the tuition for selected graduate students admitted to the ESL program. Dr. Back will provide more information about the scholarship at a later date

4. Discussion items:

- Housing needs for international visitors

John Dooley reminded UCIA representatives that he had asked them to provide an estimate for the number of nights they would have need per year to house international visitors. A notice will be sent out to the representatives prior to the next meeting on November 13 to remind them to e-mail this information or to bring it them with them to the meeting. Dr. Dooley has learned that the Veterinary Medicine school retains a lease on a residential property for the purpose of accommodating international visitors but the college is still interested in participating with other colleges, departments, and organizations in a broader, university-wide endeavor.

- Phi Beta Delta

The induction ceremony for Fall 2008 will be held during International Education week on Monday, November 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the University Club. UCIA chair Lance Matheson will be the keynote speaker. Applications and nomination forms will be e-mailed to UCIA representatives.

- Visit from Swiss ambassador

Dr. Dooley announced that the Swiss Ambassador is planning to visit Virginia Tech on November 6 – 7 and is interested in making a public appearance. Dr. Dooley noted that the ambassador serves a particularly unique role in representing the United States' interests in countries with which the US does not have diplomatic relations, such as Cuba and Iran. Dr. John Browder had also met with the ambassador during a recent trip to CESA and stressed the importance of making and maintaining strong connections between VT and Switzerland.

Dr. Dooley added that the Ambassador from South Africa is scheduled to be the guest speaker at a World Politics class at 4 p.m. on October 27; the talk will take place in one of the large lecture rooms in McBryde Hall with space available for other interested parties as well. The ambassador is the current chair of the Coalition of African Ambassadors and will head a delegation of 14 ambassadors; announcements will be sent out when itinerary details are finalized. Dr. Dooley also commented on the visit of the Danish ambassador, who came to the campus on October 1 to address a group on the topic of the "European Union as a Rising Superpower." Dr. Dooley observed that the proximity of Virginia Tech to Washington, DC enables such visits from international dignitaries.

Dr. Dooley shared several additional updates with the group. He thanked Jeremy Billetdeaux for keeping the Education Abroad programs going smoothly during the time of transition between directors. He also noted that the conversational language classes were continuing and others will be offered at the YMCA, with a limited number of free spaces available in each class for Virginia Tech students, staff, and faculty. He also noted that a group representing Virginia Tech will be traveling to India on Monday, October 13, to launch, in collaboration with the Tata group, a high-tech seminar series that will become a semi-annual event focusing on the integration of policy and ethics in the context of technology. The delegation will be meeting with several of the partners with whom the VT, India project is being organized. Dr. Dooley will also be making a brief stop in Oman to meet with the partners with whom Virginia Tech officials are working as consultants to open a private university.

Mary Marchant suggested creation of an expanded international affairs webpage that would consolidate all the information regarding the variety of events taking place throughout the university; this would enable faculty to more expediently identify activities that are of interest to them. Miriam Rich will discuss this idea with Susan Felker. Dr. Dooley reminded the council members of the faculty groups that meet regularly to discuss regional strategies, focusing on the areas of Africa, East Asia, and Latin America.

Dr. Dooley also noted progress on the Latin America initiative in Guanajuato, México; Dr. Matheson mentioned Santa Catarina University in Brazil, which had sent a delegation to Blacksburg this summer to sign an MOU with hopes of further developing the exchange program currently exists between the institutions. Dr. Dooley remarked that Virginia Tech's international profile is strong and growing and has many options to visit and explore such opportunities, but advised against the over-expansion of such

endeavors and cautioned the group to be careful in selecting partnerships in order to protect Virginia Tech's reputation. Not all invitations and inquiries can be accommodated; eight self-invitations from other institutions have recently been turned down.

- World Food Day (October 16)

Miriam Rich distributed fliers for World Food Day. The sponsored event will take place October 16 from noon – 3:00 pm in the International Affairs Office and will consist of a three-part teleconference hosted by the U.S. National Committee for World Food Day. The program will feature a panel of guest speakers, a short documentary film, and a live webcast of a call-in question and answer session.

- Update of UCIA membership roster

Corrections were solicited and the roster will continue to be updated on an as-needed basis throughout the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35