

UCIA Meeting
Monday, October 17, 2016
10:30 a.m. – noon
International Affairs Offices, Conference Room A

Present:

Kathryn Albright, *Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Architecture and Urban Studies*
David Brady, *Director, Office of Export and Secure Research Compliance*
Van Crowder, *Director, Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRE)*
Monika Gibson, *Director of Student Services, Graduate School*
Stephanie Hart, *Director of Academic Programs, College of Natural Resources and the Environment*
Elaine Humphries, *Director, Rice Center for Leader Development, Corps of Cadets*
Vicki Langford, *Office of the University Registrar*
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*
Brett Netto, *Graduate Student Assembly*
Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*
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*
Samantha Winn, *University Libraries*

Guests:

Andrea Brunais, *Communications Director, Outreach and International Affairs*

1. Welcome, introductions, and approval of September minutes

UCIA vice chair Ian Leuschner called the meeting to order and asked attendees to introduce themselves. A motion to accept the minutes of the September meeting was made by Monika Gibson, seconded by someone, and approved unanimously.

2. Changes to UCIA Bylaws

Ian Leuschner reported that the revisions to the UCIA bylaws approved at the September meeting were submitted to the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA) on September 20. COIA will also have two readings of the proposed changes at their October and November meetings; if approved, the changes will go into effect on December 1. The revisions were primarily to reflect the group's designation as a committee rather than a council.

3. Update on Peace Corps Preparatory Program

Karl Markgraf reported that the first meeting for the group tasked with working on the application for the Peace Corps Preparatory Program is scheduled to take place soon. Updates will be provided at subsequent UCIA meetings.

4. Student Fulbright competition report

Betty Watts, Virginia Tech's Fulbright program advisor, reported that the competition for student awards closed on October 11. There were a total of 16 applicants this year, which was down from last year; this

year's candidates as a group seemed more focused yet almost all of them started much later on their applications, significantly reducing the amount of time they had to fine-tune their proposals. Three of the seven applicants for the English teaching assistantships are engineering students, reflecting a positive trend in that discipline's recognition for increased intercultural competence as a marketable skill. Betty thanked all faculty who assisted in the application process, whether through interviews, reference-writing, or foreign language assessments, and asked everyone to consider referring outstanding students as candidates and encouraging them to apply for these opportunities.

5. Alumni Awards

Betty Watts reminded committee members that the call for nominations for the Alumni Awards for Excellence in International Education, International Outreach, and International Research is usually announced in late October or early November. Several UCIA members are needed to serve on the review committee, as well as a previous recipient. Several changes to the process had been proposed, primarily in regards to eligibility requirements for previous recipients and to clarifying and expanding upon the selection criteria for the outreach and research categories; those had been added later and were not as details as the information provided for the education category. This subject will be addressed again at the November meeting and review committee members will be recruited.

6. Constituent reports

a. OIA

Karl Markgraf reported that a delegation from Shandong University visited Blacksburg recently. This is in conjunction with a research collaboration that Rolf Müller has spearheaded for ten years; this is now expanding to a trilateral partnership between Virginia Tech, Shandong University, and the city of Shandong that will include establishment of a huge research facility and the creation of a dual degree program. Currently the mechanical engineering and electrical and computer engineering departments are involved and plans to include programs with Pamplin as well are in the works. The chief financial officer of the university had a successful meeting with Provost Rikakis. Approvals for the dual degree must be obtained from the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

The Steger Center had experienced a decrease in enrollment recently but participation is likely to increase during the coming year. A program called the "Deans' Forum on Global Challenges" is being developed; this will focus on energy, food, and water security and is scheduled to launch in Fall 2017. Progress is also being made in partnerships with Chile's National Commission on Scientific and Technological Research (Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica; CONICYT) that will facilitate recruitment and enrollment for fully-funded graduate students to attend Virginia Tech; similar agreements are underway with Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico. Students who apply to Virginia Tech and get accepted are then eligible for the CONICYT scholarships, which cover 75% of their tuition and fees and 100% of their maintenance costs; hosting departments would pay the other 25%. Dr. Markgraf closed by mentioning the partnership with Cape Coast University in Ghana. This has already been leveraged to create a new study abroad program and has generated two requests from prospective Fulbright scholars whom the School of Education has tentatively agreed to host.

b. OIRED

Van Crowder discussed OIRED's strategies to grow its portfolio. The InnovATE project is developing a follow-on to the iAgri project with Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania that has been led by Ohio State; this would be worth \$14 – 20 million over five years. A concept note for a project in Cambodia on animal/horticulture research in response to an RFP from the Horticulture Innovation Lab was approved. Other projects and proposals being formulated include sustainable intensification in Cambodia;

agrotourism in Albania; STEM teaching in Egypt; and a concept note to the McArthur Foundation. Visitors from Armenia met with President Sands.

Van announced that Daniel Sumner has been named the new associate director for Women and Gender in International Development. The office is still seeking a communicator.

c. Global Education Office

The GEO is hosting a representative from the Boren Awards program on October 20, who will make a formal presentation at the Graduate Life Center, Room F, at 10 a.m. followed by an informal Q&A session. Faculty as well as students are welcome to attend.

d. International Support Services

Ian Leuschner reported that he has been working with Legal Counsel on the Shandong project. ISS is also hosting a series of meetings and info sessions for stakeholders who work with J-1, H1-B, and permanent resident applicants. Ian will be meeting for a debriefing with the Service Without Borders group who received the grant for post-earthquake relief work in Nepal.

e. Graduate School

Monika Gibson announced that two new immigration advisors have been hired and the office will once again be fully staffed as of October 25.

f. OESRC

David Brady reported that the office has begun a program of monitoring graduate students. A small number of applicants from sanctioned countries may have prior or current affiliations with the military or with restricted parties. Sanctioned countries include Syria, Cuba, Sudan, Iran, and North Korea. The office will provide guidance to faculty who work with these students in regards to research and academic activities. This is in response to a Department of the Treasury mandate and will protect departments, students, and the university. This fall a large cohort of students (20 – 25) from Iran had been accepted at Virginia Tech but received their visas too late and will have to start in January.

David added that due to health issues, Mike Kendrick will be attending UCIA meetings during the coming months.

7. Other items

There were no other items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 10:53. The next one will take place on Monday, November 14 at 10:30 a.m. at the International Affairs Offices.