

## **UCIA Meeting**

**October 22, 2009**

**8:00 – 9:30 a.m.**

**International Affairs Office, Meeting Room A**

### *Present:*

Kim Beisecker, *Director, Cranwell International Center*

Mike Bertelsen, *Associate Director, OIRED and Associate Dean, CALS*

Jeremy Billetdeaux, *Assistant Program Director, Education Abroad*

Cynthia Bonner, *Chief of Staff and Director of Administration, Student Affairs*

Laurie Brogdon, *Director of Multicultural Alumni Programs, Alumni Relations*

John Browder, *Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, College of Architecture and Urban Studies*

John Dooley, *Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs*

Ana Dubnjakovic, *Performing Arts and Foreign Languages Librarian*

Julie Ingram, *Financial Aid Counselor, Scholarships and Financial Aid*

Mary Marchant, *Professor, CALS*

Matthew McMullen, *Program Director, Education Abroad*

Miriam Rich, *Communications Coordinator, OIRED*

Susanna Rinehart, *Director of Education for Diversity and Inclusion, Office for Equity and Inclusion*

Richard Shryock, *Assoc Professor & Dept Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures*

Debra Stoudt, *Assoc Dean for Academic Policies & Procedures, Liberal Arts & Human Sciences*

### **Action items:**

- Faculty summer program salary data – to be compiled by Matt McMullen and Jeremy Billetdeaux
- Alcohol policy task force – Cynthia Bonner, Laurie Brogdon, Matt McMullen
- College update for November UCIA meeting – Mike Bertelsen, CALS
- Alumni Awards review panel – Don Back, Matt McMullen, Debra Stoudt

#### **1. Welcome, introductions, and approval of meeting minutes**

The meeting was called to order by chair John Browder and participants introduced themselves. John Dooley requested a change to the agenda to include discussion of a modification to the university alcohol policy that more accurately reflects the realities of study abroad trips. The minutes of the September meeting had been distributed electronically for approval by council members.

#### **2. Education Abroad updates**

Matt McMullen had followed up on earlier discussions as to concerns raised regarding faculty pay for summer programs. Tom Wilkinson, director of distance learning, had met with him to explain the process and why it is so complex. Funding for programs each summer is based on the activities of the previous summer and each college is responsible for its own programs. It becomes a challenge to plan ahead; given the higher numbers of on-campus students compared with those going overseas, it is more lucrative to focus on campus-based programs. Pamplin sets aside a certain amount each year to support education abroad programs; university-wide, \$70,000 had been allocated for program development of these types of activities last year, although it is unclear what effect the pending budget cuts will have on this funding. The possibility of incorporating the faculty pay into the program costs was raised, either in its entirety or splitting it between students and the sponsoring college. Richard Shryock commented that in the past this has been attempted but has not been very effective. John Dooley agreed that reliance on this remedy would cause the programs to become unaffordable in the future and therefore may work as a short-term

answer but should not be used as the standard. He stated that the UCIA should take the lead on this issue and work to develop a solution. Dr. Dooley noted that less than 5% of summer tuition funding is for education abroad and suggested that this information be highlighted in creating a strategy for launching a credible argument to advance and increase faculty-led summer programs through incentivizing. Jeremy Billetdeaux provided statistics that showed 26,000 summer session credit hours took place on campus last summer versus 2,000 off-campus. Richard Shryock advocated seeking a good approach this is revenue neutral but will still allow for expansion of programs. John Dooley asked Matt McMullen to collect more comprehensive data to share with the council before proceeding.

The discussion then turned to the topic of the university alcohol policy. As currently written, it is tied in to the campus rules that follow the commonwealth law stating that the legal drinking age is 21. Consequently the faculty are responsible for enforcement of this policy, regardless of the location. This becomes problematic in situations where alcohol can be served in a cultural context, or when faculty members see students in 'after hours' locations. Dr. Dooley is seeking guidance from the council as to whether the initiative should be taken to amend this policy to permit consumption of alcohol during university-sponsored programs abroad. This would not apply to situations at CESA, as the facilities there belong to Virginia Tech. In response to a question regarding the policies of peer universities, Matt McMullen replied that this varies widely from school to school; generally speaking, public universities more strictly adhere to the regulations of their state of origin while private schools are more inclined to go by the rules of the destination. John Dooley explained that this topic was brought to his attention by Kay Heidbreder in the office of Legal Counsel, who recommended that the policy be reviewed. Matt reiterated that the policy is outdated and that Virginia Tech faculty could benefit greatly from this support a revised policy would provide. Concerns were expressed that care must be taken in presenting this matter to the Board of Visitors in order to avoid potential political ramifications. Mike Bertelsen raised the question of how to deal with other controlled substances. Jeremy Billetdeaux mentioned that there are several different types of study abroad programs, which complicates the wording of the policy; he pointed out that the statement regarding alcohol consumption on faculty-led programs must be very clear and specific. Questions were also raised regarding the status of students from other schools who participate in Virginia Tech sponsored programs. Kim Beisecker asked if the council was taking a pro or con stand on the issue; John Browder suggested that the recommendation be less a matter of for or against than an attempt to craft language that would reduce irresponsible use of substances and relieve faculty of the burden of enforcing the policy. John Dooley agreed that it should not be a moralistic stance but rather an educational one that gives students a realistic international experience without putting faculty in an awkward position. Cynthia Bonner requested that this matter be taken by council representatives back to their respective departments and organizations in order to get some feedback. John Dooley encouraged such interaction and also mentioned that the topic had been raised with the provost, who was very comfortable discussing the subject. Kim Beisecker cautioned that the language clearly specifies official university-sponsored events rather than any personal/individual international travel that students might happen to undertake. John Browder recommended that a sub-committee be formed to work on the language. John Dooley requested that Cynthia Bonner, Matt McMullen, and Laurie Brogdon serve on this committee, and focus on alcohol only at this point.

### **3. Informational items**

#### **a. CESA update**

Dr. Dooley reminded the group that November 16 is the deadline for RFPs for CESA; he asked all council members to remind their colleagues about this opportunity and to encourage their colleges to apply. UCIA members will be selected to serve as the jury for reviewing these proposals. Dr. Dooley noted that the review jury is advisory, reviewing and recommending proposals to the Vice President for PIA.

#### **b. University Partner update**

Dr. Dooley stated that he would begin adding this topic to the council meetings on a regular basis to keep the group apprised of both long-standing and new strategic partnerships with other institutions. He stated that recently an MOU/SEA has been finalized with the University of Kent in Canterbury. CLAHS has taken the lead on this with programs in creative writing and the arts in what is promising to be a very exciting and positive opportunity for students. A relation is also being formalized with the University of Basel; the Graduate School is becoming the lead partner and will expand programs in life sciences in addition to the university's historic partnership with CAUS. A group from Brazil is currently visiting Virginia Tech; this is primarily an initiative of the College of Engineering, although an interest has been expressed in broadening the scope of activities. Dr. Dooley would also like the council to identify a list of 20 – 30 international institutions with which Virginia Tech enjoys strong and rich relationships, such as regular student and faculty exchanges and collaborative projects, with the hopes of eventually being able to offer masters and PhD degrees. Virginia Tech currently has collaborations with 11 of the top 200 universities in the world as recently ranked by U.S. News and World Report. Virginia Tech is also taking the lead in an initiative in conjunction with other schools such as the University of Virginia, New York University, the University of Edinburgh, and the University of Melbourne in a pilot program for building capacity in African universities. The meeting will be in London and will be attended by representatives of the University of Johannesburg, the University of Abidjan, and the University of Tanzania among others who are part of the African Association of Universities. Mike Bertelsen mentioned the project Virginia Tech is currently involved in with the University of Juba and the Catholic University of Sudan with an anticipated visit to Blacksburg by the chancellor in November.

### **4. Alumni Awards for Excellence in International Education, Research, and Outreach**

#### **a. Recruitment of review committee**

John Dooley mentioned that over the years the alumni award has grown from one award to three thanks to the support of the Alumni Association. The award is managed by the UCIA; this year the aim is to announce the call for nominations as soon as possible and also to move the deadline for submissions to an earlier date. A small committee is needed to review nominations and select the winners. Dr. Dooley recommended that the committee consist of at least two members who participated last year plus a previous recipient of the award. Last year's panel was made up of Matt McMullen, Don Back, and John Browder. As chair of UCIA, Dr. Browder will step down from serving on the review committee and Debra Stoudt will come on board. Dr. Dooley will review the names of previous recipients and make some recommendations for the final member of the panel.

#### **b. Change of award name to Discovery, Learning, and Engagement**

Dr. Dooley explained that the university is gradually implementing the new terminology of discovery, learning, and engagement in place of outreach, education, and research. He posed the question to the group as to whether or not the names should be changed for the awards. There was no strong support from the council regarding this query; Richard Shryock expressed the opinion that many official

documents of the university still have the old language and many people seem to find it confusing. The group conceded that the names remain as they stand.

#### **5. College update**

Associate Dean Debra Stoudt presented a report on international goals in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. She began by identifying international curricular, research, and engagement goals included in the College's strategic plan, which currently is in draft form but which will be distributed to faculty and posted on the web later this semester. Following was commentary on two handouts, the College's International Initiatives spreadsheet and a flyer with descriptions of faculty-led education abroad programs for 2009-2010 (see attachments to the minutes). Dr. Stoudt addressed how the College's initiatives and goals dovetail with the "stand-out recommendations" on p. 2 of the VT International Strategic Plan 2004-2011. She concluded by identifying current challenges to the expansion of international initiatives in the College as well as future projects and goals being considered by the College's Dean's Advisory Committee on International Initiatives, established in spring semester and meeting for the first time this semester.

Mike Bertelsen will organize next month's presentation on CALS.

#### **6. Other items**

At Dr. Dooley's request, Matt McMullen provided a brief recap of the Education Abroad fair held on September 23.

Dr. Dooley also announced that Miriam Rich will take the lead in preparing Virginia Tech's nomination for the NAFSA's Paul Simon award for institutions that have made great advancements in internationalization. He stated that Kim Beisecker for the Cranwell International Center and other council members will be providing input and assistance.

In response to a question from Debra Stoudt, Matt McMullen replied that the information on the Education Abroad service provider CAPA is currently being reviewed by the president. This company organizes study abroad trips and offers discounts.

Mike Bertelsen announced that the faculty small grants program is being offered once again. This program will support up to six initiatives for research projects. Information is available on the OIRED website and an announcement will be sent out via the VT News.

There were no additional items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

#### **7. Next meeting: Thursday, November 12; 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.**