

UCIA Meeting  
Monday, November 14, 2016  
10:30 a.m. – noon  
International Affairs Offices, Conference Room A

Present:

Don Back, *Director, Language and Culture Institute*  
Jackie Bixler, *Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures*  
David Clubb, *Director, Cranwell International Center*  
Monika Gibson, *Director of Student Services, Graduate School*  
Theresa Johansson, *Director, Global Education Office*  
Rhonda Johnson, *Associate Director for Client Services, University Scholarships and Financial Aid*  
Vicki Langford, *Office of the University Registrar*  
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*  
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies and Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*  
Judy Taylor, *Staff Senate; Office of the Provost*  
Larry Vaughan, *Director, InnovATE, Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRE)*  
Latanya Walker, *Director of Alumni Relations for Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement*  
Danny White, *Associate Director, Student-Athlete Development*  
Samantha Winn, *University Libraries*

Guests:

Andrea Brunais, *Communications Director, Outreach and International Affairs*  
Matt Ebert, *Program Specialist for Learning Initiatives, Student Affairs*  
Lia Kelinsky, *Assistant Director for Intercultural Initiatives, Cranwell International Center*  
Frank Shushok, *Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs*

**1. Welcome, introductions, and approval of October minutes**

David Clubb called the meeting to order and asked participants to introduce themselves. A motion to accept the minutes of the October meeting was made by Monika Gibson, seconded by Karl Markgraf, and approved unanimously.

**2. Special Presentation: Mozaiko Global Living-Learning Community**

Frank Shushok attended the meeting to discuss the Mozaiko project, along with Lia Kelinsky and Matt Ebert. Dr. Shushok noted that David Clubb, Monika Gibson, and Theresa Johansson are among the planning committee members. Student Affairs is interested in exploring these alternate means of delivering education; since students spend more time in their residences than in classrooms, there is the potential for them to serve as more than merely places to eat and sleep. Dr. Shushok noted that while conducting research for this project, a historical document from the 1970s was discovered that described Virginia Tech as an institution that strove to keep living and learning areas separated. However, the trend now is to integrate these communities rather than bifurcate them. Currently there are two dorms that have faculty-in-residence programs and a third is being added. Although most students traditionally move off campus after their freshman year, programs such as Mozaiko are designed to encourage students to stay in residence halls longer for the unique benefits they offer. In his "State of the University" speech,

President Sands mentioned the possibility that 65% of residential facilities could eventually transition to living-learning models, with options not only for multi-disciplinary programs but also housing for graduate students and faculty mentors. Mozaiko seeks to provide opportunities for US and international students to practice languages, develop multi-cultural competencies, and network in areas such as international finance and politics. To date 18 upper-division students have applied to live in the facility, which in its pilot phase is seeking to have 45 participants and has capacity for 73. The program has four key concepts: language learning opportunities, promoting intercultural dialogue, earning an International Studies minor, and participating in a “boundless leadership” project. Study abroad cannot be required but it is encouraged. Mozaiko is the Esperanto word for mosaic.

Lis Kelinsky has been named the program director for the project, which will be implemented in phases. Year 1 will establish both weekly language practice groups hosted at the Writing Center in Neman Library and language pods in Harper Hall. Target languages are Mandarin, Arabic, Spanish, French, German, and English, but other languages would be welcome, such as Russian and Italian that have significant presence through study abroad programs as well. Conversation groups would provide leadership opportunities for participants, although leaders would have to be vetted for a certain level of proficiency and competence. Writing Center director Jennifer Lawrence currently leads several practice groups at the library, and the number of pods will be flexible pending demand. These opportunities would include international students as well, who could both practice their English and lead conversation groups in their native languages; concerns were expressed about the possibility of overburdening these native speakers. Leadership could also be developed through organizing special events and programs, and faculty are asked to help publicize the project and suggest ideas. Intercultural dialogue would be facilitated through a shared CLE course. The course that has been proposed is “Nations and Nationalities,” an introduction to world politics course in Area 7 that would be required for first-year students; Dr. Yannis Stivachtis would be the instructor. Comments were made that that specific course is geared more towards international studies majors and perhaps not the best choice for incoming exchange students. Other universities offer options such as a one-credit course at William and Mary led by the residential college director that discusses a variety of topics common to all students’ interests and invites guest speakers. Successful models include those at the University of Michigan and the Ohio State University. The hope is that the program will grow to 250 – 300 participants in 5 – 7 years and will include procuring a new building. The UCIA is critical for advancing this initiative, which could attract students to the university; marketing and recruitment efforts are underway and will reflect these possibilities. Living-learning communities are funded by auxiliary funds and program fees; the costs are relatively modest but do add up. Equity among funding for LLCs was also mentioned. Dr. Shushok noted that there will be a steering committee to assess ideas and revise as necessary and all feedback is welcome.

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

The call for nominations for the alumni awards will go out by the end of November. Volunteers are needed for the review committee. Latanya Walker and Debra Stoudt expressed an interest in serving in this capacity. Ian Leuschner will be contacted to see if he would be willing to participate. A winner from last year will be invited to serve on the review committee as well.

#### **4. Constituent Updates**

##### **a. Outreach and International Affairs**

Karl Markgraf reported that the president of Shandong University visited campus last week and met with President Sands. The existing partnership with this institution is expanding to include a dual degree in International Studies and joint research projects with both the Mechanical Engineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering departments that will include building a new facility. Considerable support for these initiatives has come from the Chinese Ministry of Education and the Chinese Embassy. Dr. Markgraf will be traveling to Shandong to explore other opportunities through this partnership and commented on the benefits of this affiliation for Virginia Tech.

Dr. Markgraf added that the Global Travel Oversight Committee (GTOC) is working to procure funding for overseas emergencies plus also working on issues regarding “hot spot” countries. The election has raised concerns for some international students who are now worried about their status, and an open session for students and scholars to discuss these issues may be held. DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival) students should also be part of this conversation; an UndocuAlly training session was held on Saturday, November 12. The Global Education Approval Committee (GEAC) mandated by the Global Travel Policy 1070 will begin meeting soon.

##### **b. OIRED**

Larry Vaughan reported that the office is been finishing up work plans that include cohosting a climate change workshop in Nepal. They have received several callbacks in response to RFPs submitted, among them a collaboration on integrated animal-horticulture systems with the Horticulture Innovation Lab and a call back for a horticulture for the integrated something. Team Malawi is teaming up with Carilion for education advocacy project and the office is also assisting with an international event in South Africa that includes a half-day session on promoting 4-H programs through universities.

##### **c. Language and Culture Institute**

Don Back discussed recruiting initiatives that include a brochure they have created with the Graduate Life Center to clarify admissions procedures. LCI personnel are wrapping up a 15-country tour that has had three members on the road, visiting locations in the Middle East and East Asia. They are working with the Omani Ministry of Education on a 1 +2+2 scholarship program that will bring in 18 students in January; this offers one year of English language prep, two years at the New River Valley Community College, and then transfer to Virginia Tech for the remaining two years. They are planning a scoping trip to Vietnam, which is proving to be an emerging market. Additionally, the LCI are hosting a group of 50 Argentines through a Fulbright program, and assisting with curriculum development for female students at King Fahd University in Saudi Arabia. Dr. Back commented that enrollment in intensive English programs had been declining but now appears to be on an uptick. He added that student services director Sondra Schreiber will be leaving the Institute.

##### **d. Global Education Office**

Theresa Johansson stated that the office is now fully staffed. Through a Partners for America grant they are doing site visits to Western and South Africa; the first locations were in Senegal and Ghana and in the spring they will travel to Botswana and Swaziland. Karl Markgraf also traveled to South Africa to begin developing the partnership with Stellenbosch University in South Africa. The partnership with Cape Coast University in Ghana will also be expanded; while there, the VT delegation met with an impressive cohort of Mandela Washington Fellows candidates from the university.

The pre-departure orientation will be held at the end of November and faculty program leader training was held in October. The Curriculum Globalization Grant competition is in its final year. The GEO was able to offer a significant number of scholarships and Theresa thanked Don Back for providing funding for this

initiative. Students in New Zealand were contacted immediately after the recent earthquake to ensure their safety. A new summer course in Ghana with a focus on leadership and service has been created; its focus will include timely issues and topics relevant to the country, such as solar energy, sustainable water projects, small business creation, and women entrepreneurs.

**e. Cranwell International Center**

David Clubb noted that this was the start of International Education Week. The Council of International Student Organizations had organized some programs for IEW but in the future he would like to have more participants among stakeholders. Cranwell has also been engaged in HR searches and have made offers to candidates for assistant director and programing positions; they are in the process of revising some of the job descriptions and hope to include more activities. David remarked that the most recent Open Doors report contains relevant data that is worth discussing, particularly in the area of economic impact. He expressed his thanks to Don Back for working with Elaine Humphrey to administer the Intercultural Development Inventory assessments to freshmen cadets; this tool will assist with their goal of building global, ethical leaders. They are also working to deliver content for a certificate program. The Synapsis purchase and installation is underway and other departments who will use this will now need to get involved; it is scheduled to come online this fall.

**5. Other items**

- Latanya Walker announced that she is working with robust alumni chapters in Beijing, Shanghai, and Turkey. These groups can be contacted when VT personnel are traveling for meetings and to serve as resources. They are creating a Facebook page.

There were no other items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 11:56.