

University Council for International Affairs (UCIA)
November 16, 2006
325 Burruss Hall
10:30 – 12:00 noon

Present:

Andrew Becker, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature
Michael Bertelsen, Assoc. Director OIRED and Assoc. Dean CALS
Jeremy Billetdeaux, Senior Coordinator for Education Abroad
Jack Davis, Chair of UCIA, College of Architecture and Urban Studies
Debbie Day, Alumni Relations
S.K. De Datta, Assoc. Provost for International Affairs and Director, OIRED
John Dooley, Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs
Steve Duke, Assistant Program Director, Education Abroad
Gene Egger, Professor/Director Special Programs Architecture
Valerie Hardcastle, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
Paul Hover, Library Systems
Mala Kumar, President, International Relations Organization at Virginia Tech
Chad Miller, Economic Development Specialist/Int'l Programs, Economic Development
Wayne Neu, Assoc. Professor, Aerospace and Ocean Engineering (for Glenda Scales)
Stephen Skripak, Interim Assoc. Dean of Graduate and Int'l Programs, Dean of Business

Welcome:

Andrew Becker welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes from 10.5.2006 had been previously distributed electronically. These **minutes were approved.**

Information Items:

- 1) Steven Duke circulated the **Student Responsibilities for Education Abroad Programs** which was approved by the UCIA Committee via an e-mail vote on November 2, 2006.
- 2) Steven Duke raised issues of concern regarding draft two of the **Allergy and Dietary Needs Form**. There is the concern that some students' religious values will prevent them from disclosing health related information. In this event, Virginia Tech would be unable to ask them to fill out the form. Committee members offered various solutions to avoid the conflict. After reviewing the suggestions with Legal Council, Steven will bring the revised form to the December 7, 2006 meeting for further suggestions or approval.
- 3) Steven Duke issued a **handout proposing possible ways to disseminate the Student Responsibilities for Education Abroad Programs form**. He will discuss the options

with Kim O'Rourke to determine which method satisfies all state and university regulations.

4) Steven Duke updated members on the **scholarships** available to students. CALS has finalized their options for education abroad scholarships. Decisions are expected in the next several weeks from the ACC and OIRED regarding theirs. Steven asked for members to note that students who are participating on non-VT programs and have received scholarships should still contact the Education Abroad Office so that they can make sure the funding is correctly distributed.

5) Steven Duke distributed numerous handouts pertaining to the education abroad destinations data collected as part of the **Open Doors data**. Over 2000 students are participating in international programs and the United Kingdom is the leading destination.

6) Steven Duke provided a handout on the Advising Grid. In four to six months a new grid will be distributed which will include information on non-exchange programs. He asked that members share the information with their respective colleges.

7) S.K. De Datta asked members to keep two dates in mind:

a) **Outreach NOW** event will be held **September 24, 2007**

b) **Education Abroad Fair** will be held **September 26, 2006**

These dates are contingent upon securing the Drill Field reservations which can only be made beginning in February 2007.

8) President of the **International Relations Organization at Virginia Tech (IROVT)**, Mala Kumar, presented updates regarding her organization. Currently they are focused on securing \$1,300 in funding in order to print and distribute copies of an informational book regarding the crisis in Darfur, Sudan. Her Power Point presentation focused on this issue and their collaboration with Help Africa (helpafrica.net). For further information she invited members to peruse the IROVT webpage: www.irovt.org. Steven Duke and Jeremy Biletdeaux offered to help Mala by supplying her with information regarding the small grants awarded through OIRED. The next award cycle begins in March. The UCIA members invited Mala back to the meetings to provide updates whenever it is convenient for her.

9) S.K. De Datta updated members on **OIRED issues**:

a) Currently OIRED has provided nineteen Graduate Assistant positions to students.

b) OIRED believes the highly publicized Randal Tobias philosophy of *foreign assistance must be tied to our foreign policy*. It is the hope that the current political shifts will allow USAID to revisit their policy which prevents grant recipients from working with the countries deemed "non- friendly" towards the United States. The goal of OIRED is to track whatever shifts occur and adjust to them quickly.

10) John Dooley reminded members that the **ACC Conference** will be held Sunday evening at Duke University. The program looks promising and he will update the committee during the December meeting on relevant information.