

University Council for International Affairs (UCIA)  
December 7, 2006  
325 Burruss Hall  
10:30 – 12:00 noon

*Present:*

John Albano, Associate Director, Scholarships and Financial Aid (for Barry Simmons)  
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  
S.K. De Datta, Assoc. Provost for International Affairs and Director, OIRED  
Gene Egger, Professor/Director Special Programs Architecture  
Mala Kumar, President, International Relations Organization at Virginia Tech  
Miriam Rich, Communications Coordinator, OIRED  
Nicole Sanderlin, Graduate Student, Public & International Affairs  
Mary Marchant, Assoc. Dean and Director of Academic Programs, CALS  
Chad Miller, Economic Development Specialist/Int'l Programs, Economic Development  
Wayne Neu, Assoc. Professor, Aerospace and Ocean Engineering (for Glenda Scales)  
Glenda Scales, Assoc. Dean for Distance & Learning Education, College of Engineering  
Stephen Skripak, Interim Assoc. Dean of Graduate and Int'l Programs, Dean of Business  
Richard Shryock, Assoc. Professor, Foreign Languages and Literature

*Welcome:*

Andrew Becker welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes from 11.16.2006 had been previously distributed electronically. These **minutes were approved**.

*Information Items:*

1) Jeremy Billetdeaux mentioned that the Education Abroad Office was seeking two to three more students to participate in the **Caribbean Spring Programs** and asked members to spread the word to students. Members discussed the need to add another liberal arts course to the Punta Cana programs offered. Students have requested this and stated that they want a course which integrates with the Dominican Republic culture course being taught.

There was no update on the **Allergy and Dietary needs Form** because Legal Council had not responded yet; however, no problems are anticipated. The motion was passed to approve the form as it was presented to the members pending no issues of concern are raised by Legal Council.

2) S.K. De Datta provided members with a brief **update on the India Initiative**.

- Four program areas for *initial* expansion:
  - a) Biotechnology

- b) Information Technology
- c) Mechanical Engineering (specifically Automotive)
- d) Nanotechnology

From October 25, 2006 through November 3, 2006 a group from Virginia Tech visited India in order to establish contacts and build towards the established goals. The group was comprised of:

- Dr. John E. Dooley, Virginia Tech University Representative
- Dr. Ishwar K. Puri, Program Leader for Nanoscale Science and Engineering
- Dr. Tarun K. Sen, Program Leader for Information Technology
- Dr. Roop L. Mahajan, Program Leader for Nanobiotechnology and ICTAS
- Dr. Jan Helge Bohn, Program Leader for Automotive Engineering

The members have submitted their report and are in the process of analyzing prospects and developing a business model for how to proceed. Discussions are also underway to bring Arun Vora on board and have him help establish much of the legwork for a center in India. Many of the prospective partners in India have stated that they wish to have a physical center located in India; however, the exact location remains to be determined. Possible cities currently include Delhi, Mumbai (Bombay), Bangalore and Chennai.

3) Mike Bertelsen discussed updates concerning the **Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRE)**. He apologized that the Global University Newsletter would be late. A new editor, Diane Estrada, has been hired and will be working to produce a current issue.

Numerous potential projects are coming up including:

- A Request for Proposals about a Liberia project
- Haiti watershed project
- Engineering Indefinite Quantity Contract

He will provide updates on these as they become available.

4) Information from Chad Miller regarding the **India U.S.A Harwood Mission** was presented by S.K. De Datta from an e-mail Dr. Miller asked to have shared. The Hardwood States Export Group (HSEG) will lead a diverse group of US and Appalachian hardwood companies, on a low-cost-to-participant trade mission to the fast growing market of India. The mission will include individualized business appointments, educational seminars for Indian and American participants, site visits and opportunity for direct business development. USDA/FAS and the ARC will fund the project. The Virginia Tech Department of Wood Science and Forest Products and the Office of Economic Development will support the effort.

Building upon the successful IndiaWood 2006 trade show in Bangalore, February 16-20, 2006, the Hardwood States Export Group will pursue a second trade event in India, September 9-19, 2007. This event will increase awareness about U.S. hardwood and suppliers in India following the IndiaWood trade show in 2006. It will provide a

continued a presence in the Indian market that showcases the extensive variety of commercially available hardwood species and products. The business meetings will also provide a platform whereby Indian wood product importers and manufacturers can meet, become acquainted, follow-up on contacts from IndiaWood 2006 and begin to foster new business relationships with additional U.S. suppliers.

5) Mala Kumar informed members that funding for the **Darfur book** has been secured from the Student Budget Board. She provided members with a handout illustrating the contents of the book.

6) Richard Shryock mentioned the successful **Gustave Kahn** exhibition he organized in Paris. The turn out was terrific and it helped to inform the audience about both Gustav Kahn as well as fostered awareness about Virginia Tech.