

Minutes
University Council for International Programs
September 20, 2002
10:00 – 11:30 a.m., 325 Burruss

Present:

David Alexander, Chair, Ed. Leadership & Policy Studies
Roger Ariew, Professor, Philosophy
Kim Beisecker, Director, Cranwell International Center
Monika Gibson, Graduate School
Lyn Gray, Interim Director, UOIP
Tom Hammett, College of Natural Resources
Clark Jones, Vice Provost for Outreach
Pamela Kurstedt, Assistant Dean, College of Engineering, NoVA Center
Athansios Moulakis, Director, Center for European Studies and Architecture
Judith Shrum, Interim Chair of UCIP
Barry Simmons, Director, Scholarships and Fin. Aid
Judy Snoke, English Language Institute, Cont. Ed.
Nammalwar Sriranganathan, College of Vet Med
Robert Sumichrast, Assoc. Dean, College of Business

Absent:

Carlene Arthur, Engineering
David Brugh, Development
Landrum Cross, Vice President for Student Affairs
Lee Drowne, Undergraduate Admissions
Meredith Gavilan, Study Abroad Advisor, UOIP
Dixon Hanna, Associate Provost
Mark McNamee, Provost
Daniel O'Brien, Assistant Director for Education Abroad
Leslie O'Brien, Library Systems
Arnold Schuetz, Director, International Studies
Gerhardt Schurig, Biomed Sciences & Pathobiology
Max Stephenson, Assoc. Dean, College of Architecture and Urban Studies

Guests:

Kellie Morris for Debbie Shelton, Alumni Relations
Keith Moore for S. K. De Datta, Dir., OIRD and Assoc. Dean, CALS

Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

Members introduced themselves to Clark Jones and gave a brief reason of why they were selected to be on the Council.

Clark Jones informed the council that he had been with the university since 1971. At the request of Mark McNamee, he was asked to fold International into University Outreach. It is his intent to do as much as possible during the next year.

In recent meetings between Clark Jones, Lyn Gray and S. K. De Datta, the impression has been given that UOIP and OIRD need to be combined into one entity. This would give the university and the outside world a more unified face. The administrative merge should take place in the next 4-6 weeks. The intent of combining offices is not to minimize any piece but rather to find advantages of bringing them together. Another intent of the combination is to respond to the recommendation of the "Bates Steering Committee on International Affairs" to provide a senior level position for International Affairs. The goal is to have this position by the end of the academic year. The position should be an Associate Provost for International Affairs. It is possible that a Vice Provost position may be created for International Affairs at a later time.

Handout: University Outreach and International Affairs Organizational Plan

The new Associate Provost for International Affairs will preside over the three offices listed on the left side of the handout. A reminder that two of those offices will be combined.

Clark Jones polled the council for their input.

Concerns:

How would combining the two offices work?

Answer: Hoping to span research education and development to bring everything to a single coordination spot. Finds the current structure confusing and wants to have a more coordinated approach.

Is there consideration of having other functions and services directed towards international affairs for undergraduate and graduate students? Will the mission of the current three offices change? The new level of administrator should have a broad level of experience.

Answer: Can't rule out other options.

Don't want to see study abroad diminish in the academic departments.

Answer: There is always a question of how much to standardize.

There is a great advantage of having international activities in individual departments and colleges. Moving functions to a centralized office may give others an excuse not to help.

Answer: The process must be departmental driven to be successful.

There is confusion among faculty about whom to address with regard to international programs. Some faculty members do not want to go through their college because they know that won't receive the support they need. Faculty members circumvent the approval process; go elsewhere for approval, and then the department discovers some sponsorship has been ill conceived.

Gray: Hoping that the focus of the new organization, and the new person will collaborate with all departments and colleges.

Jones: Intent is to create and charge positions at full recognition. International programs must be a function of the academic departments. No intentions to create competition among colleges.

Group was asked whether or not they were for this move. Those who are opposed can address Clark Jones on an individual basis. Intentions are to pose International Affairs in the most favorable position as possible.

Where will the central location be for International Affairs?

Answer: Burruss is possible.

In reference to a situation at Radford University, are we prepared for that?

Answer: Willing to cut other administrative positions in order to make this happen.

Robert Sumichrast made the following motion:

The University Council on International Programs supports the creation of a high level administration position to foster international affairs at the university that respects the need for innovation and participation by colleges and individual faculty. The motion was seconded by David Alexander. Discussion followed.

How will this position be different than the one six years ago that was cancelled out?

Answer: Unsure of what happened the last time. The most important decision to make is whom we decided to hire. Who we put in a particular role. The person hired must have superior skills to take International Affairs forward.

Clark Jones was asked to explain how the organizational chart was organized above his position.

Clark Jones reports directly to Mark McNamee the Provost. There are four Vice Provost for each of the missions - Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, Vice Provost for Research, Vice Provost Academic Affairs, and Vice Provost for University Outreach and International Affairs.

The new person selected should have a vision in international processes and a mission within reaching to be one of the top 30 universities.

Answer: There is currently no one in charge of bringing all coordinating functions together. UCIP may be the closest group but still has trouble executing ideas. A senior level position is what international affairs needs.

The vote was 15 in favor and 1 abstention.

Shrum: Informed the council of Clark's intention of supporting some type of representation from UCIP to the University government.

Old Business

1. Approval of minutes

The April minutes were approved with the following the correction:

Gray: Clarification – exchange programs are the least expensive means for VT students to travel. Another large group are the faculty-led groups during the summer. Summer trips would cost more because they occur at a time apart from the normal semester and include the faculty member's salary. Most international students come to VT for full degrees, while inbound exchange students are typically not degree seeking. They are here for one or two semesters only and their credits transfer back to their home institution.

2. Update on International Resolution Fiduciary/Responsibility Policy – Dixon Hanna, Judith Shrum

Handouts: University Council Resolution for International Fiduciary Responsibility
Checklist to meet fiduciary responsibility for abroad programs
Guidelines for Safe Travel Abroad

We are hoping to make the Resolution for International Fiduciary Responsibility a University Policy. The checklist shows a way of collecting the data that is requested in the policy. The Guidelines for Safe Travel abroad will be reworded to say Suggestions for Safe Travel abroad. Both of these will not be part of the policy. However, both will be integrated into the current study abroad handbook published by UOIP. The handbook can also be accessed on line.

All the "musts" have been changed to "shall" because "shall" is a command in legal terminology. If it is not a command, then the word "should" will be used. Current copy of the resolution shows some rewording in reference to issued raised before. The council was ask to give a response of support to the resolution page only.

Concerns:

In reference to Whereas #3 - Vet Med does not have any approved programs. Must they have approval in the future?

Answer: The current procedures now are variable and that is why standardization is in need.

What is the time frame for this plan?

Answer: There is currently no way to get information to the University Council. It may be possible to work with the Commission on Outreach. Would like to propose a standing committee within that commission to move items to the Council. Judith Shrum is currently serving on the Commission on Outreach.

Sumichrast: Although I am in favor of standardizing Study Abroad and international programs, the resolution does impose new restrictions and extra work on faculty and colleges. Recommendation made not to move so fast and give those who will be affected some time for feedback. The focus seems to be on University liability. What about faculty liability? General Counsel has been giving two different answers to the same question. One has given the impression that study abroad programs are only protected while in the classroom. All other functions out of the classroom are not. The other said full coverage exits. Other factors to consider are recruiting, cultural visits, etc.

Answer: Document has only been through legal wording at this time.

The document seems to be broad at the beginning to cover all areas and then narrows it points that are specifically for other functions.

The Attorney General should make the final decision and make a clear-cut statement.

The University attorney's are branches of the State Attorney General's Office. Looking into the possibility of inviting someone to address UCIP.

The question was raised again about providing a day-to-day itinerary. Was that just for Study Abroad problems? Will faculty, researcher's, graduate assistants, etc. have to comply? What would happen when changes occur in the itinerary?

Answer: The intent of this policy is to locate any group or person at any time during their overseas travel.

To resolve the issue of confusion, it would be helpful to separate the Study Abroad steps from the research connections. Look to see what common elements they share.

Sub committees will be formed in order to separate the actions. Bob Sumichrast and Lyn Gray volunteered to work on the Study Abroad issues and Keith Moore and Tom Hammett volunteered to work on the concerns of Research projects.

The outcome should result in two resolutions. Decisions need to be made quickly because summer 2003 programs are already set. Committees should be prepared to give a report at the October 15 meeting.

3. UCIP Stance for independent students wishing to study in locations with Travel Warnings

After a meeting with Jerry Cain, University Counsel, the recommendation was to caution students against going on programs where a State Department Travel Warning was in effect, but that we can not deny advise, financial aid, or obtaining credit for courses taken. The exact wording still needs to be worked out in the University Policy.

4. Adjustment of eligibility for Alumni Award for Excellence in International Programs will be covered in the next meeting.

Handouts:

VT Study Abroad Program Financial Agreement

VT Study Abroad Program Liability Agreement

VT Study Abroad CESA Agreement Policy Reminder

Time ran out before roundtable reporting.

Meeting adjourned 11:35 a.m.