

UCIA Meeting
Monday, January 23, 2012
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
International Affairs Office, Meeting Room A

Present:

Althea Aschmann, *Head of Cataloging, University Libraries*
Don Back, *Director, Language and Culture Institute*
Lynda Bailey, *Assistant Registrar for Transfer, Office of the University Registrar*
John Browder, *Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Architecture and Urban Studies*
David Brady, *Director, Export Control & Secure Research Compliance*
John Dooley, *Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs*
Guru Ghosh, *Associate Vice President for International Affairs*
Monika Gibson, *Director of Student Services, Graduate Life Center*
Reed Kennedy, *Director of International Programs and Instructor of Management, Pamplin College of Business*
Marilynn King, *Outreach, Research, and Planning Specialist, Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence*
Ian Leuschner, *Director, International Support Services*
Ian Michalski, *Graduate Assistant, Outreach and International Affairs*
Eric Miller, *Program Director, Education Abroad*
Jerzy Nowak, *International Programs, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*
Ginny Ritenour, *Virginia Tech Alumni Association*
Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*
Richard Shryock, *Associate Professor and Department Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures*
Bob Smith, *Associate Dean and Professor, College of Natural Resources and the Environment*
Barry Simmons, *Director, Scholarships and Financial Aid*
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies and Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*

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

Reed Kennedy called the meeting to order and asked participants to introduce themselves. Having received no corrections to the minutes of October meeting, he declared them approved as submitted.

2. Education Abroad updates

Eric Miller announced that he will be transitioning out of the Program Director position effective March 9 in order to move to China and work on student recruitment for the Language and Culture Institute. He will be on hand throughout the end of the semester to finish several projects; Jenny Sax, assistant program director, will be able to handle meeting requests as necessary. A faculty orientation session on risk management was held in December and was well-attended. Another session hosted by Reed Kennedy will be held on Friday, February 3 at 10 a.m. at Pamplin 1045 with an additional session is being planned for NOVA personnel. Invitations to these sessions are being sent to the UCIA and faculty who are leading study abroad programs.

The fall 2011 semester was the first time groups had to purchase the mandatory insurance. Dr. Miller reported that the implementation process is being ironed out. Students are being asked to self-enroll in

third-party provider programs as well as exchange programs, whereas those participating in faculty-led programs will be billed as part of the program costs. Several different models are being tested but ultimately the process will be the same across all colleges. Insurance for a week-long non-credit spring break program would cost only \$8; although it is not mandatory, it is strongly recommended. Lynda Bailey asked how this information is disseminated to groups, especially those participating in non-credit/service learning programs, many of which are conducted during spring break. Dr. Dooley noted that the Education Abroad office should be more proactive about informing groups and leaders; often they are faith-based organizations and information can be sent through the office of student affairs. These groups are not subject to the mandatory purchase requirement but they should be notified that this service is available. Dr. Miller reminded council members that insurance must be purchased by all students participating in any credit-based course; if a student already has adequate coverage they would be exempt from that requirement but they should be advised that they would likely have a different provider and would be inconvenienced by scenarios such as being evacuated separately from the rest of the group. The purchasing of insurance is also strongly recommended for faculty; additionally, it includes activities that are considered high risk and may not ordinarily be covered, such as skiing and scuba diving. The coverage is designed to prevent professors from assuming responsibility for bill payment. Dr. Miller added that parents seem to be understanding of this new requirement; it has been emphasized to everyone the purpose it serves and that it is not trip cancellation insurance. Dr. Miller stressed that the opt-out option should not be encouraged.

Dr. Miller stated that some progress has been made on the issues brought forward to the Student Exchange Agreement task force. The housing office will increase the number of spaces available in the dorms for foreign exchange students from 40 to 60 per semester. These are available on a first-come, first serve basis but is still not enough for all participants. Additionally, the applications are now going to be received and processed earlier in the preceding semester in order for incoming students to get time to work with advisors. Exchange students are flagged as non-degree seeking and often do not receive priority treatment; however, it is imperative that everyone realizes these are exchange programs. There is an expectation that Virginia Tech students studying abroad would want to be treated well and in order for that to happen, there must be reciprocal behavior here with incoming students.

Ian Leuschner added that an update on the electronic MOU and SEA systems will be given next month and that it has been discovered that many of these documents have been largely ceremonial. He will work on developing a checklist to see if a partnership between institutions is feasible. Dr. Dooley suggested that students be invited to a meeting, possibly in April, to get feedback from them regarding their experience here at Virginia Tech.

On behalf of the council members, Reed Kennedy expressed his appreciation for all Eric Miller has done during his tenure here.

3. VT Navigate

Ian Michalski announced that this resource, which seeks to highlight all Virginia Tech international activity, was unveiled in November 2011. Although there were still some details to work out, it was decided to take it live because the website is self-promoting and will actually facilitate corrections and updates. Ian requested assistance from the UCIA in maintaining this resource; he plans to have one monthly update day. Reed Kennedy suggested that this might be too often; Ian concurred that comments could be emailed and edited as necessary. Dr. Dooley added faculty may be involved in other projects and activities, details of which can be passed through colleges via associate deans or

international representatives. The information does not have to be as comprehensive as each conference attended. Additionally, Ian has received feedback from student organizations, 17 of whom have identified themselves as international and have aligned themselves with the resource. The data currently includes OIRED's USAID projects, individual research, faculty-led study abroad trips, research partnerships, MOUs, and alumni. Ginny Ritenour stated that the Office of Alumni Relations is revitalizing their alumni newsletter, which can be used to promote the website, and offered to work with Ian to help identify some specific areas and establish contacts. John Browder also recommended adding Peace Corps information.

4. International strategic plan update

John Dooley asked Guru Ghosh to provide an update on the strategic plan for global engagement. Dr. Ghosh remarked that a draft statement on 'what does engagement look like in the 21st century land grant university' will be ready on or about March 30. The next meeting of the group will take place on February 14, with regularly scheduled meetings being held after that. Dr. Ghosh stated that all ideas are welcome.

Richard Shryock observed that sometimes there is confusion between the terms 'outreach' and 'engagement.' Dr. Dooley replied that the discussion will focus on how Virginia Tech will be globally engaged and Virginia is part of the globe; engagement can be defined as the interface of scholarly activities for the betterment of society, and outreach is a factor of that. He further clarified that this is not an international strategic plan, but a plan within which there will be succinct international strategies. Outreach is a strategy that can be done anywhere. This particular group is looking for a plan in which the university can interface globally and will include education as well as research. Nicole Sanderlin added that defining terms and language was a very big part of the first meeting and will continue to be addressed.

5. Evaluation of Pilot Program: Student Conduct Review Policy

Reed Kennedy reported that during the summer semester a pilot program was tested to implement student conduct and honors program records checks on study abroad participants. The procedure was then to be evaluated during the fall semester. Debra Stoudt, Eric Miller, Reed Kennedy, Frances Keene, and Neal Kegley were satisfied with the results; they have prepared a survey with approximately ten questions that will be going out this week to faculty program leaders for additional feedback.

6. International Programs, College of Engineering

Nicole Sanderlin gave a presentation on international programs within the College of Engineering, which has made it a priority to become more strategic in collecting data. Currently 3 ½ % of their undergraduates study abroad and they are seeking to increase that number. Civil and Environmental Engineering sends the largest amounts of students on study abroad programs. Students enjoy the faculty-led programs, which seem to be the most successful since students can travel with their peers and faculty they know. Most of these programs take place during the summer; Europe is the most popular destination, including a chemical engineering capstone project in Denmark. India and China are the biggest source of both graduate and undergraduate students as well as J-1 visiting scholars and ECE faculty. Nicole provided a list of current faculty-led programs and MOUs/SEAs. The Rising Sophomore program is now in its fifth year; nearly 20 students annually are chosen to attend this short-term study abroad experience. Selected participants must first take a course during the spring semester that offers an introduction and orientation to the program. Nicole noted that few go on to explore additional experiences, but is working with Stephanie Adams, head of engineering education, to change this;

interest is clearly strong in these opportunities as this year there were 60 applicants for the 19 spots in the Rising Sophomore program.

7. Other items

- **International Guest Registry**

David Brady stated that two meetings have been held with the international visitors committee, which is charged with the two-pronged mission of creating a visitor registry and refining protocol as well as how to train departments in matters regarding security to synchronize with the work of the Office of Export and Secure Research Compliance. Differentiation will be made between students, scholars, and faculty, but the need to identify high-risk export activities is mandatory especially within certain departments. The committee will provide a set of draft procedures for those departments and work with those units.

There were no further items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

8. Schedule for future meetings (Mondays, 1:30 – 3:00, International Affairs Offices)

February 13, 2012

March 12, 2012

April 9, 2012

May 14, 2012