

UCIA Meeting
Monday, January 27, 2014
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
International Affairs Office, Meeting Room A

Present:

Lynda Bailey, *Assistant Registrar for Transfer*
Mike Bertelsen, *Director, OIRE*
Jackie Bixler, *Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures*
Brian Bolton, *Director, Cranwell International Center*
David Brady, *Director, Export Control and Secure Research Compliance*
Andrea Brunais, *Communications Director, Outreach and International Affairs*
Guru Ghosh, *Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs*
Sarah Gugercin, *Research Associate, Department of Horticulture*
Reed Kennedy, *Director of International Programs, Pamplin College of Business*
Stephanie Lang, *Academic Advising Coordinator, CNRE*
Mollie LoJacono, *Coordinator of International Support Services*
Jennifer Nardine, *University Libraries*
Elsie Paredes, *Associate Director, Language and Culture Institute*
Miriam Rich, *Communications Director, OIRE*
Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*
Jennifer Quijano Sax, *Director, Education Abroad*
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies and Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*
Elankumaran Subbiah, *Associate Professor, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine*

Guest:

Lieselot Whitbeck, *intern, International Support Services*

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

Elankumaran Subbiah called the meeting to order, wished all a happy new year, and asked participants to introduce themselves. Minutes of the December 2013 meeting were approved unanimously as distributed.

2. Constituent updates

a. International Education Policy committee

Jenny Sax reported that the committee did not meet in January and will wait until the formal announcement of the recommendations for the 281 task force before scheduling the planning retreat for the committee. During the spring semester the group will focus on the approval process for faculty-led study abroad programs. Dr. Ghosh added that the task force report will be delivered to President Steger in mid-February after which the IEPC can move forward. Several of the committee's endeavors have already been approved to be brought to the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs, where they will be addressed at future meetings.

b. Education Abroad

Jenny Sax announced that two new employees recently joined the Education Abroad office. Rommelyn Conde is the new associate director for international education for strategic partnerships and public relations. Rommelyn has served as the part-time Education Abroad communications coordinator for the

past year; among her responsibilities will be keeping the 54 active international exchange partners informed. Rebecca Johnson has been hired as an advisor; this is a new position and the first professional advisor since the office has relied in the past on student peer advisors. This will enable the office to provide more consistent advising. Rebecca comes from the University of Virginia and has studied in Valencia (Spain) and managed exchange programs in Ecuador.

Jenny also mentioned that two scholarship programs, the former OIRED scholarships and the Phi Beta Delta scholarships, have been suspended due to funding reconfigurations. All these were merit-based scholarships and the Phi Beta Delta program offered as much as \$5000. Dr. Ghosh is working on seeking alternative sources of funding, but the onus for financing is now on departments. The Atlantic Coast Conference is also dropping its scholarship program. There are still national scholarships available such as the Boren and Gilman scholarships, and the university financial aid 'travels' with the students, but this will undoubtedly have a big impact.

Rachel Fitzgerald, assistant director for program management, has been working with the Studio Abroad program to streamline the process for incoming exchange partners. Academic advisors and departments will now be better informed regarding students' arrival and can now offer a more coherent enrollment processing for them. This program goes live today and will be applicable for exchange students arriving in the Fall 2014 semester. Prior to this, students were admitted but receiving units did not really understand the process. Application deadlines will be shifted as well; the nomination phase has a March 1 deadline and the applications will be due on April 1. Since this is the pilot year, the Education Abroad office will continue to work with paper applications which can be uploaded to the new online system.

Another new process being implemented is that the controllers office will seek approval for new programs, first from the college/department and then from the Education Abroad office, before moving forward with setting up new accounts. There will be additional information in the next newsletter about this. Jenny concluded her report by announcing that the Spring Expo will be held on January 28 in the Commonwealth Ballroom at Squires Student Center from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. In addition to info tables for faculty program leaders, there will be representation from third-party providers and campus units such as Career Services.

c. OIRED

Mike Bertelsen reported that two OIRED faculty were working in South Sudan when the unrest began in the country in December. They were eventually evacuated safely; one is back in the U.S. and the other is in Nairobi. Local partners are still in Juba but they are waiting to see what happens before the future of the project is decided. The Economic Time, one of the leading newspapers in India, featured an article on the impact of the IPM program in combating the papaya mealy bug, which has been valued at a \$1.3 billion dollar savings over five years. A successful winter semester programs in Senegal led by Ozzie Abaye and Cynthia Wood featured OIRED resources in Senegal and included service learning components. Dr. Subbiah recalled a trip he had taken to Tamil Nadu where students were surprised and impressed to learn about the 'lab to land' programs and proud of the direct impact it had on farmers.

d. Language and Culture Institute

Elsie Paredes reported that the new Northern Virginia center opened on time earlier this month. In addition to classroom space, there is a conference room and a computer lab, increasing capacity for up to 250 students (there are currently about 90 enrolled). The LCI is also scheduled to opening a center at Radford University in March to assist them in reestablishing their ESL program, which was closed after September 2001. The university has only 100 international students out of a total student population of 10,000. Several LCI faculty members have traveled to Kurdistan, where the LCI is working with the NGO IREX on capacity-building projects in local universities as part of the post-war recovery effort.

Workshops included curriculum design, distance learning, and academic leadership. Elsie announced that free foreign language classes for faculty and staff will begin on February 3; these classes are sponsored by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, the Office of Research, and Outreach and International Affairs. They take place during lunchtime and are offered in Spanish, German, French, and Chinese.

e. Cranwell International Center

Brian Bolton stated that orientation has been completed for 27 incoming undergraduate students, with a social orientation taking place for 90 graduate students. Cranwell is partnering with University Libraries and student groups to organize Arab Fest, which will take place February 3 – 7 and feature activities such as an art and fashion show, an evening of coffee and hookah, trivia night, a dance party, and a panel discussion on breaking down Arab stereotypes. Jackie Bixler commented that in previous years this event had been organized by Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and included the Samaha family, whose daughter Reema was killed on 4/16; she expressed concerns that they be included in the events as well.

Cranwell's move to Harper Hall will take place on May 19.

f. OESRC

David Brady reported that a new relief on sanctions against Iran has been announced; it applies to auto parts and petroleum but other prohibitions on other items such as laptops, cell phones, and visas for students are still in place. International students working on projects such as those related to energy are under particular scrutiny. David also noted that new guidelines have been put into place for massive open online courses (MOOC) which can be considered an export and would therefore need a license. In particular any IP address from Syria, Sudan, Cuba, and Iran would be affected by this, but North Korea has been cleared. David would like to meet with anyone offering such courses to ensure compliance. He has been working with Brian Ducote at the LCI regarding their Libyan students and residual sanctions. Since American University staff members were recently killed in a bombing in Afghanistan, additional security measures will be enforced. David's office will continue to work with OIRED and LCI to monitor high-risk activities. The long-term nature of the Kurdistan project requires a different type of guidance than that which can be addressed using the usual travel approval form. Likewise, there are now 20 Iraqi students currently here, which presents a different set of circumstances than having Virginia Tech personnel travel there. Elsie Paredes commented that Don Back had set up a Moodle site for the project but to date nothing more extensive has been established.

g. International Support Services

Mollie LoJacono attended on behalf of Ian Leuschner, who was at the Washington International Educators' Conference and will return later in the week. David Muusz, associate director of ISS, left in December and the search committee will be conducting phone interviews next week as they seek to fill that position. Mollie introduced Lieselot Whitbeck, a law student at the University of Virginia who will be interning for ISS during the spring semester; she is interested in becoming an immigration attorney and will be processing applications for the office.

h. OIA

Guru Ghosh has put in a request for hard-money funding for a new associate vice president for international affairs. Jenny Sax will be leaving in June and a national search will be launched for her replacement. Dr. Ghosh's office will relocate to the University Gateway Center (902 Prices Fork Road); Andrea Brunais and Keith Pierce will be moving into that suite, as will International Support Services

personnel. Betty Watts will move into the Education Abroad Office to work with projects such as Fulbright and development of Latin American initiatives.

Two speakers have been secured for the Deans' Forum: Mitchell Reiss, a senior American diplomat currently serving as the president of Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, and Harriet Fulbright, the unofficial ambassador for the Fulbright program, the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government. Both are also available to visit classes and student and faculty groups.

In regards to international partnerships, Dr. Ghosh reported that a group recently returned from visiting the University Austral in Chile. The exchange program there will be phased out and a research program will be implemented, possibly in conjunction with a partnership with ICTAS in the Patagonia region. Jenny Sax, Daniel Cordova, and Gerhard Schurig just returned from a site visit to Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, where a variety of both short and semester-long programs have taken place.

Dr. Ghosh also addressed the issue of funding for global initiatives in the classrooms and how this can be awarded to faculty who either create new or update existing syllabi to incorporate international topics. Across the university international initiatives need incentivizing; the loss of scholarships is a particularly difficult issue to deal with and some means of revitalization for international programs must be enacted. Dr. Ghosh will be meeting soon with incoming President Dr. Timothy Sands, who will be on campus as on April 1. Dr. Sands has asked all vice presidents to provide him with their three top priorities which will comprise his focus during his first year here. The international concerns Dr. Ghosh plans to discuss with him are student scholarship, CESA, and the need for a better system for global engagement. The university will most likely be moving to a three-tier tuition model (in-state, out-of-state, and international), and Dr. Sands has already professed an interest in making Blacksburg global. Reed Kennedy commented that despite all the attention given international topics, funding for summer programs is disincentivizing, tuition is increasing, and scholarships have been cut. There are different funding models throughout institutions in the Commonwealth; VT's is particularly rigid and not conducive to program growth. Dr. Ghosh concurred that there should be a serious investment in raising funds for scholarship. He also thanked Andrea Brunais for doing an outstanding job in showcasing the work of the Integrated Pest Management Innovation Lab, which is overseen by OIRED. This kind of research is also negatively impacted by such retrenchment; Mike Bertelsen noted that now the Office of Sponsored Programs will not allow OIRED to waive the 26% overhead portion of USAID grant proposals which used to make them an attractive competitor. All these small issues eventually add up and have adverse effects on the campus climate. It was suggested that Dr. Sands be invited to a UCIA meeting to meet the group as the representative body of internationalization on campus.

Miriam Rich added that Andrea's public relations endeavors were noticed by Marty McVey, a USAID board member, who retweeted to USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah and Virginia Senator Tim Kaine. She recommended that everyone read Bill and Melinda Gates' annual letter, which is about the importance of foreign aid. This prompted Dr. Ghosh to comment on the needs of individuals within our own communities and asked if the LCI could create free courses to help members of the university housekeeping staff develop literacy survival skills. Elsie Paredes replied that this should be feasible.

3. Foreign language resources

Elsie Paredes requested feedback from the university community regarding needs in foreign language instruction. Turkish has frequently been mentioned; people have requested Portuguese but don't realize it is offered at the university. Classes have been offered through 4VA, a consortium of Commonwealth universities, and Turkish language instruction has been provided through the Intercultural Understanding Club. Often these classes close due to lack of participants. A Haitian Creole course offered several semesters ago had a successful first term but then died out. The possibility of starting them again can be re-explored, since it is a popular site for research.

4. Other items

- It was suggested that the new registrar and director of Financial Aid and Scholarships be invited to a future UCIA meeting to discuss the impact of the new restrictions placed on scholarships and awards
- The deadline for Education Abroad mini-grants will be April 1. The program has changed its emphasis over the years from faculty research to focus more on student mobility issues, to include undergraduate research opportunities and incentivizing faculty to develop new programs. There are usually four awards presented for a maximum of \$2400 each, with matching funds given by the relevant colleges/departments. Last fall the applications were so strong that a fifth award was given out as well.

There were no further items to discuss and a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jenny Sax, seconded by Nicole Sanderlin, and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45.

5. Schedule for meetings for 2013 – 2014 academic year

February 24, 2014

March 31, 2014

April 28, 2014

May

no meeting