

UCIA Meeting
Monday, February 11, 2013
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
International Affairs Office, Meeting Room A

Present:

Suzie Baker, *Assistant Director, Cranwell International Center*
Jacqueline Bixler, *Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures*
John Browder, *Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Architecture and Urban Studies*
Guru Ghosh, *Associate Vice President for International Affairs*
Monika Gibson, *Director of Student Services, Graduate School*
Reed Kennedy, *Director of International Programs, Pamplin College of Business*
Ian Leuschner, *Director, International Support Services*
Jennifer Nardine, *University Libraries*
Jerry Niles, *Interim Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs*
Jerzy Nowak, *International Programs, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*
Ginny Ritenour, *Alumni Association*
Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*
Barry Simmons, Sr., *Director, University Scholarships and Financial Aid*
Bob Smith, *Associate Dean and Professor, College of Natural Resources and Environment*

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

Bob Smith called the meeting to order and asked participants to introduce themselves. Minutes of the December meeting were approved as previously distributed.

2. Education Abroad updates

Education Abroad staff members were working at the annual spring expo and unable to attend the meeting, but an update on programs had been provided by new assistant director William Nelson Pruitt III. 17 third-party providers and 25 faculty-led programs will be represented at the event. On February 6 the office has launched its online newsletter, which was shared via the office's listserv of 105 subscribers in addition to other means of distribution. It has already been viewed 400 times, with the most frequently-visited section being the pre-departure link for program leaders. Staff members also met with university administrative officials to preview the paperless application process and ensure that it meets security guidelines, including those for electronic signatures. The staff is now working on developing and outlining standard operating procedures for storing and deleting student information, auditing and controlling administrative permissions, and presenting a detailed list of the student information collected by Studio Abroad.

3. Cranwell International Center Updates

Suzie Baker reported that the Center has implemented a new protocol for use of their emergency phone. Over the holidays a total of 17 calls had been received but many of the questions were routine topics related to travel and immigration. Students who have been here did not have a clear understanding of what constitutes an urgent situation but the most recent group of newly arrived students have been instructed in proper use of this resource. Suzie stated that 104 students participated in the orientation session on January 14. The office instituted a scheduled check-in process rather than walk-in, with a check list for necessary documents. The Center also hosted two lunches and a dinner, and their students attended the university-wide new students orientation with the aim of

greater integration of all students. A mandatory immigration session was cancelled due to the weather-related delayed opening on January 18, but Cranwell staff was able to work with the Graduate Life Center to provide an alternative session.

Suzie also announced that Cranwell will also stop facilitating translation services, as per advice from the office of legal counsel. In the past students have served as volunteers for this, but they receive no training and due to confidentiality and liability issues, it is not ethical to continue this practice. Cranwell will use a third-party provider for their needs and other groups such as the hospital or the Blacksburg Police Department have access to the same resources.

The Cranwell spring social event is scheduled for February 22. It will focus on games and conversation. Approximately 175 people are expected to attend, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion will be invited to participate as well.

4. IEPC formulation

Bob Smith announced the formation of a sub-committee, the International Education Policy Committee, which will meet to discuss and recommend policy that will be brought forward to the UCIA for approval. Among the topics that will be addressed are MOUs, SEAs, and study abroad issues. The committee will begin to form at the end of March and start its work in April. This will be a standing committee consisting of 7 – 8 members. Dr. Ghosh will accept volunteers interested in serving on the committee.

5. Strategic Planning Update

Jerry Niles and Guru Ghosh distributed a summary of proposed actions that will be forwarded to the Office of the Provost for consideration in the strategic plan. As per the instructions of the Provost, the document was limited to one page with four bullet points. Jerry Niles explained that since he is serving as an interim vice president the actual strategic plan for the Office of Outreach and International Affairs is not yet ready but they have made internationally-related funding its priority. The implementation of the new plan will be moving to a more concrete level; President Steger has asked for all ideas to be distilled into an action document. The Provost will assemble these documents and provide guidance as the university move towards its goals and guides future investments. The mention of preparing students for 'global leadership' is intentional with the goal of creating deeper intersections in staffing and policies to build on existing resources. This in turn will hopefully enable every student who wishes to participate in a study abroad experience to have that opportunity. Faculty development in the international arena will also continue. Dr. Ghosh discussed the necessity to groom students to adapt to a global bureaucracy. The action document mentions the commitment to research as well as the creation of a global brand that will assist in international recruiting and fund raising. Dr. Ghosh had met with the vice president for development in November and learned that currently the only international fundraising taking place is for the renovation project at the Center for European Studies and Architecture; however, funding for all regional centers must be addressed. Dr. Ghosh also advocated for the creation of language learning communities, further investment in Arabic and Chinese language instruction, and expanding programs in Latin America. Feedback from council members indicated that the words 'undergraduate, graduate, and faculty' be included in the paragraph on expansion of international research portfolios. It was also clarified that all international initiatives could continue on other continents that may not have been specifically identified in this document. Dr. Niles spoke of the balance between research and development-driven efforts versus where the university will invest its money and reminded everyone that the document was the first version of future iterations. In response to an inquiry regarding the Confucius Institute, Dr. Ghosh explained that it is a matching-funds initiative sponsored by the Chinese government that provides qualified U.S. institutions with opportunities to

expand language and culture programs, similar to the work of the British Council. Funding is available for up to five years; leadership would come from Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and the university would retain control over programs and instruction.

6. India Initiative Update

Guru Ghosh reported that the project is slowly moving forward. It was hoped that the center, modeled after the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS), would be able to open this year, but the Indian partners are facing liquidity issues that has delayed its launch. Dr. Ghosh will be traveling to India in March to meet with them and will provide an update upon his return.

7. International Faculty Development Program Update

Guru Ghosh was pleased to announce that there were many applications for this year's program; he will announce the names of the nine participants the week of February 11. This year's event will take place in Singapore and Malaysia, which starts on May 20 and lasts two weeks. Selections were made based on building the best team based on the theme of this year's program. Dr. Niles elaborated that in the past, colleges felt obligated to nominate someone who may not have been the best for that particular program. Barry Simmons remarked that this is the eighth year of the program and asked about follow-ups. Dr. Ghosh replied that former participants have been brought in to mentor this year's group. They will be engaging in collaborate work leading to books, articles, programs, and symposiums. Dr. Niles commended Dr. Ghosh for having stretched this year's program beyond the traditional comfort zone and ensuring synergy among participants.

8. Consortium of Universities for Global Health membership

Elankumaran Subbiah directed attendees to the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) website; as increasing global health initiatives is a component of the proposed strategic plan, he asked council members to consider joining this organization. Institutional membership dues would cost \$4000 annually and would provide support for programs and link Virginia Tech with other universities and give them greater access to conferences and seminars in addition to dovetailing with other educational programs. The fee could be shared among entities such as the School of Veterinary Medicine, the Fralin Life Science Institute, the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI), and the Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute. Dr. Ghosh commented that Virginia Tech is currently not strong in global health; the School of Veterinary Medicine is currently the leader in this through their work in avian flu, vaccines, research programs, and partnerships with universities in Chile. Dr. Niles added that VBI has also done some work in this area; the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise has discussed creating a global health program and the College of Engineering has been working in this field with the University of Nottingham.

9. Other items

- Jerzy Nowak expressed concerns about emergency situations necessitating translation. Suzie replied that the Blacksburg Police Department has its own bank of translators and Cranwell is also using a third-party system.
- John Browder reported that recommendations from the Education Abroad Task Force will be forwarded to the Provost for consideration in requesting additional funding. Twelve peer institutions were interviewed via a telephone survey and the results are being compiled in a report.
- The search for the Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs is entering its final stages. Six candidates were interviewed and there finalists were invited to campus for live interviews, presentations that will be open to the public, and receptions.

- Monika Gibson reported that Bronwen Watts has been hired as the immigration advisor for the Northern Virginia Campus. She will be coming to Blacksburg for training and to meet colleagues.
- Nicole Sanderlin noted that MOUs require a certified translation and asked how that can be done, since the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature does not offer this service and now Cranwell cannot provide it either. Dr. Ghosh suggested that although international students should not be used for outside translation work, it may be permissible to have them verify a routine document for legitimate business purposes. Suzie Baker added that much of the work which was requested of the students was not appropriate, such as asking students to accompany patients during doctor visits. She noted that English fluency may also be questionable; translations done through Cranwell are notarized by the Center as having been 'to the best of our ability.' Dr. Nowak commented that compassionate professionals should make their resources available to the public during times of crisis. Ian Leuschner noted there are liability issues when students become involved in translation work.
- Ian Leuschner announced that the Phi Beta Delta international honor society will host a panel discussion featuring returning scholarship winners the evening of Monday, February 11.
- Jennifer Nardine announced that the review committee for the Alumni Awards for International Excellence has met and chosen this year's winners, which will be announced at a later date.
- The Japanese Film Festival sponsored by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures will take place at the Lyric Theater February 16 and February 23 at 3:00 p.m. This year's films are 'I Wish' and the award-winning documentary 'Ending Note: Death of a Japanese Salesman.' Both movies are free.

There were no further items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 2:39.

10. Schedule for meetings for 2012 – 2013 academic year (all meetings take place on Mondays, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., at the International Affairs Offices):

March 18

April 8

May 13