

UCIA Meeting
Monday, February 23, 2015
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
International Affairs Offices, Meeting Room A

Don Back, *Director, Language and Culture Institute*
Suzie Baker, *Interim Director, Cranwell International Center*
Jenene Belcher, *Transfer Evaluation Coordinator, Office of the Registrar*
David Brady, *Director, Export Control and Secure Research Compliance*
Rachel Fitzgerald, *Assistant Director for Program Management, Global Education Office*
Andrew Fortin, *Financial Aid Specialist, University Scholarships and Financial Aid*
Monika Gibson, *Director of Student Services, Graduate School*
Carolyn Harris, *Director of Academic Advising, College of Architecture and Urban Studies*
Michael Herndon, *Director of Summer and Winter Programs*
Theresa Johansson, *Director, Global Education Office*
Reed Kennedy, *Director of International Programs, Pamplin College of Business*
Stephanie Lang, *Academic Advising Coordinator, College of Natural Resources and the Environment*
Ian Leuschner, *Director, International Support Services*
Gary Long, *Associate Dean for Curriculum and Instruction, College of Science*
Huiying 'Maggie' Mao, *Graduate Student Assembly*
Keith Moore, *Interim Executive Director, OIRED*
Jennifer Nardine, *University Libraries*
Jerzy Nowak, *International Programs, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*
Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*
Gerhardt Schurig, *International Programs Strategist*
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies and Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*

Guests:

Hunter Gresham, *Chief of Staff, Division of Student Affairs*
Patty Perillo, *Vice President for Student Affairs*

1. Welcome, introductions, and approval of January minutes

Don Back called the meeting to order and asked for the minutes of the January meeting to be approved. A motion to do so was made by Ian Leuschner, seconded by Jennifer Nardine, and approved unanimously.

2. Constituent updates

a. International Education Policy committee

Ian Leuschner reported that the committee is still working on developing a faculty compensation model for summer study abroad programs. The committee is reviewing and discussing two possible options.

b. Global Education

Theresa Johansson announced that the new 'global education' URL is now functioning (<http://www.globaleducation.vt.edu/>). She is still working on getting acquainted with her new position and the campus and has been busy meeting many on-campus constituents. The search committee for the global safety and risk management position received its charge and will meet in late March to review applications. The deadline for the faculty grants is April 1 and the award has been made more robust,

with grants up to \$4000 now available. April 1 is also the deadline for applications for the photo contest too, which begins on March 1. The office will also be sponsoring a career workshop for outbound students in conjunction with Career Services on March 19.

Rachel Fitzgerald reported that the pre-departure checklist was approved via an e-vote and will soon be available online. Faculty should check the forthcoming newsletter for the announcement as well as other important information. Complete rosters of all students participating in summer programs must be sent to the office no later than March 23 in order to finalize coding and billing procedures. A faculty program development workshop will be held on March 18 at the Inn at 9 a.m.; the event will consist of a conversational round-table discussion for faculty interesting in leading programs abroad as well as a presentation by Matt Eick, leader of a first-year experience program to Ecuador. Currently some forms used by the GEO are still managed through the Scholar site but they have considered transitioning this process to Studio Abroad. Don Back thanked Rachel and the GEO staff for keeping the office running during the hiring process for the new director.

c. OIRED

Keith Moore announced that OIRED is collaborating with the College of Engineering on a project relating to engineering and food security in Egypt that leverages their P-STEM connections. This is part of a larger award for which they will provide technical assistance and faculty advising; Sedki Riad will serve as a policy adviser. The office was also notified that they had not been awarded several other proposals for which they had applied. Tom Hammett has stepped down as the director of InnovATE and consequently there will be some reorganization taking place within that project. Kurt Richter is a member of a team currently visiting Tajikistan to review possibilities for a project related to vocational agriculture. Muni Muniappan traveled to several countries in East Africa, including Kenya, to prepare RFAs for the IPM Feed the Future Innovation Lab award that was recently re-awarded. Dr. Moore is also reaching out across campus to set up meetings with faculty.

d. Language and Culture Institute

Don Back has just returned from Kurdistan where he was traveling for his dissertation research and assisting with the kickoff of the second year of the project the VTLCI is managing in that region. Don presided over a four-day train-the-trainer workshop for 37 faculty from 9 different institutions. He also gave a two-day internationalization workshop at the request of the Kurdistan Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Eighty were in attendance from universities around the region, along with the Minister of Higher Education and the U.S. consul general for the U.S. embassy in Erbil. These events were coordinated with IREX, VTLCI's partner on the Kurdistan project.

e. Cranwell International Center

Suzie Baker reported that the 'Love around the World' special event on February 13 was a huge success, with about 150 in attendance, a swing band and dance lessons, so they will continue to build on this activity in the future and try to find a larger venue to allow for more participation. The event was linked to a service project to make Valentine's Day cards for the residents of Warm Hearth Village. The Center is collaborating with several other entities such as the Tech Dreamers organization to host a multi-cultural event on March 17 featuring local immigration attorney Christine Poarch to help debunk persistent immigration myths.

f. Graduate School

Monika Gibson announced that replacements for long-term international immigration advisors Ruth Athanson and Zelma Harris have been hired and trained. There had been some difficulties getting SEVIS access for them but the NCR graduate school immigration advisor Bronwen Watts was able to facilitate

that on their behalf; the federal hiring freeze has negatively impacted the ability to adequately staff SEVIS and the organization has acknowledged this issue.

g. OESRC

David Brady referred to an article in the Chronical of Higher Education where a unilateral action by the University of Massachusetts-Amherst prevented the enrolment of Iranian students. Visas can be denied to applicants from sanctioned countries in certain fields but this does not apply to those trying to study science or engineering. This decision was made after consulting outside counsel but it is not appropriate to prohibit enrollment of these students. The list includes Cuba, Syria, North Korea, and North Sudan. Caution must be taken to avoid discrimination and the violation of civil rights. The OESRC offers customized guidance for these types of situations. The U-Mass state system had another incident several few years ago where Lowell was fined for violating sanctions. In both these cases, the State Department had not been consulted to ensure proper procedure was being followed. It was noted that Iran is one of the top five countries represented at VT and that number is small in comparison to other schools.

h. International Support Services

Ian Leuschner reported that there have been some difficulties implementing the English proficiency testing that is now required for the J-1 visiting scholars. They have tried to create different ways to evaluate scholars but there have been some delays with the Berlitz testing system. One option may be to buy a block of pre-paid testing modules; Ian is working with the purchasing office on these possibilities. Don Back offered the resources of VTLCI to help with these obstacles.

3. Visions for Cranwell International Center and a future “Global Village”

Vice President for Student Affairs Patty Perillo provided the background to this project, which began upon her arrival at VT 2 ½ years ago when she heard feedback from international students that the support system was good but integration with domestic students was non-existent. Conversations with interim Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs Vice President Jerry Niles reinforced the reminder that all international support and service entities are located off campus, sending the unintended message that these activities are literally marginalized. Furthermore, it was hard to determine where all the different international components should best be housed. It was decided that Student Affairs was a more appropriate venue for housing VT-Engage; Cranwell International Center and other international departments could remain within their current parent units. The short-term and immediate solution was to allow most of those support-providing organizations to remain off campus for the interim but the direct service offered by Cranwell would be best served by relocating to campus. Harper Hall offered an option that combined residence options with good visibility for the first phase of this endeavor. It is not the perfect solution but it is a good first step and preferential to waiting for everything to fall into place. Dr. Perillo added that Cranwell staff and constituents seem happy with the move, although they do acknowledge that they would like to have a kitchen facility again. Student Affairs is working to provide that, and are also in conversations with CLAHS dean Elizabeth Spiller and other administrative personnel to develop a living-learning community with an academic theme to be located in Harper. The specific themes and majors have yet to be identified but may include language wings or corridors, in consultation with Foreign Languages and Literatures chair Jackie Bixler.

There is an estimated nine-month development phase with the project anticipated to launch in the fall of 2016; Dr. Perillo announced she would like a representative from the UCIA to serve on the planning committee. This will be a multi-phase project with phase 2 being the residential community, phase 3 being the incorporation of other international support services, and phase 4 being a brand new facility. This final step is part of the university’s capital plan but is likely 10 – 20 years in the making, so for now,

retrofitting Harper Hall is the best option. Dr. Perillo also requested that a UCIA member serve on the search for the new director of Cranwell. Ian Leuschner, Jerzy Nowak, and Monika Gibson volunteered for the 'global village' project; Don Back, Ian Leuschner, Monika Gibson, and Nicole Sanderlin for the director search. Not all volunteers will be chosen.

Ian Leuschner commented that there is a perception among the non-undergraduate community that a lot was lost in the move and they do not understand the urgency with which it took place. Among the activities affected was the Chinese school that used Cranwell's facilities. Dr. Perillo acknowledged this perceived loss but stated that programmatically this should not be an issue; the current space is smaller but they should be able to recover that in about two years. It was noted that in addition to the loss of the kitchen, they no longer have access to a restroom during special events. Jerzy Nowak also commented on the loss of ownership and cultural integration; for example, students now go to bars to watch World Cup games that formerly were events held onsite. The Peace Garden on Cranwell grounds has also been lost. These negative feelings are further compounded by the new entrance next to a dumpster and temporary signage that create poor impressions. Dr. Perillo assured the group that she will follow up on these concerns but added that she has received more positive feedback than negative from students and promised that they will regain all that was 'lost.' She acknowledged that the Peace Garden situation could have been handled better but she and Cranwell have seen it in a different light, with difficulty and a high rate of turnover organizing groups to maintain it. Dr. Nowak offered to assist with this project and other options were suggested, such as working with cooperative extension and relocating the garden closer to Harper, although the current location in the forested area is an ideal site. Dr. Perillo will consult with Sherwood Wilson on the university's green space plan but reiterated her commitment to the integration of the international students.

4. Virginia Tech International Collaborations and Academic Exchanges

David Brady gave a presentation on the Office of Export and Secure Research Compliance's mission as a 'virtual gate' and illustrated how the information they aggregate can help with collaboration by noting exchange trends. The statistics presented were collected over a two-year period during which 1400 trips each year were analyzed. Information on inbound visiting scholars was also included. Most of the travel is related to conferences, with research comprising only 10%. The Physics department hosts the highest number of visitors, and China provides the most visitors each year, followed by India and South Korea. The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute receives the most international funding. The presentation will be shared with council members

5. By-laws update

Reed Kennedy had presented the revised bylaws at the most recent COIA meeting for the first of two required readings. After the March meeting the revisions will then be sent forward to the University Council for two additional readings; that group meets every other week so the approvals should be complete by the end of April.

6. Other items

There were no additional items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 2:54.

7. Schedule of meetings for 2014 – 2015 academic year (all meetings to take place from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Conference Room A, International Affairs Offices):

March 23

April 27