

UCIA Meeting
Monday, March 12, 2012
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
International Affairs Office, Meeting Room A

Present:

Althea Aschmann, *Head of Cataloging, University Libraries*

Mike Bertelsen, *Interim Director, Office of International Research, Education, and Development*

David Brady, *Director, Office of Export Control and Secure Research Compliance*

John Browder, *Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Architecture and Urban Studies*

Lefter Daku, *Associate Director, Research and Planning, University Scholarships and Financial Aid*

Karen DePauw, *Karen DePauw, Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education*

John Dooley, *Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs*

Guru Ghosh, *Associate Vice President for International Affairs*

Marilynn King, *Outreach, Research, and Planning Specialist, Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence*

Jerry Niles, *Incoming Interim Vice President, Outreach and International Affairs*

Jerzy Nowak, *International Programs, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*

Miriam Rich, *Communications Coordinator, Office of International Research, Education, and Development*

Ginny Ritenour, *Virginia Tech Alumni Association*

Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*

Jenny Quijano Sax, *Interim Director, Education Abroad*

Richard Shryock, *Associate Professor and Department Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures*

Bob Smith, *Associate Dean and Professor, College of Natural Resources and the Environment*

Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies and Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*

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

UCIA Vice Chair Bob Smith called the meeting to order and asked participants to introduce themselves. John Dooley announced that Jerry Niles was present as the incoming interim vice president for Outreach and International Affairs. Mike Bertelsen introduced Jenny Sax as the interim director for Education Abroad. Minutes from the February meeting had been sent previously for council members' review and were accepted as distributed.

2. Education Abroad updates

Jenny Sax reported that they have revised and simplified the process for billing for the mandatory insurance; they will soon begin billing for the fall and summer programs. She referred council members to the handout that had been distributed at the last meeting for more information regarding statistics for this year's numbers of participants and programs.

3. Voluntary Health Form

Guru Ghosh stated that there will be renewed discussion on reintroducing a health disclosure form. Legal Counsel had had some concerns regarding the collection and dissemination of sensitive information when an earlier version was proposed; since that time they have been made aware of some of the best practices in peer institutions. Forms and documents will be revised to protect students and

assist faculty in providing the best experience to students. Dr. Dooley suggested that this be approached by mentioning that Virginia Tech's current position is not in compliance with best practices and therefore leaves us exposed; faculty are not prepared and there is a time lag regarding institutional responses. Dr. Ghosh initially hoped to have this ready for summer programs; Debra Stoudt observed that many of the summer semester groups are leaving in mid-May and it is perhaps too late to implement the process for those sessions. Dr. Dooley agreed that it would be best to continue working with the current process until all potential changes have been approved and then have a new strategy in place for the fall.

4. International strategic plan update

Guru Ghosh reported that earlier versions of presentations by departments within Outreach and International Affairs on their visions for 2018 were refined for a March directors' meeting in Arlington. That information will be brought to the strategic planning committee meeting on Friday, March 16, to write the draft plan, reviewed with Associate Vice President for Engagement Susan Short, and then presented to John Dooley in late March. The most recent plan (2004 – 2011) is also being reviewed and evaluated for feedback by graduate assistants Anthony Lizan and Ian Michalski; the time frame for the new plan encompasses 2012 – 2018.

5. Alumni Awards report

Debra Stoudt announced the winners of this year's alumni awards in international fields: Pat Kelly (Education/CLAHS) for Education, Akshay Sharma (Architecture + Design/CAUS) for Outreach, and Michael Saffle (Religion and Culture/CLAHS) for Research. There were a total of sixteen nominations this year, a substantial increase from last year, and nominations were distributed evenly across the three categories. The breakdown among colleges was as follows: eight from CLAHS, four from Engineering, two from Pamplin, and one from CAUS; one nominee has a dual appointment between CLAHS and VCOM. Dr. Stoudt noted that CLAHS instituted an international award within the college last academic year, and the winner as well as the nominees were among those put forward for the Alumni Awards this year; thus, the college-level award as well as persistent reminders to apply paid off. Dr. Stoudt concluded that this year's competition was indeed keen, and all nominees were encouraged to re-apply next year.

6. Presentation on Alumni Association international programs

Ginny Ritenour gave an update on international programs sponsored by the Alumni Association. Laurie Brogdon, the previous director for multi-cultural and international programs, recently left to take a position at Cornell and the program is in the process of being reinvigorated. Hokies Abroad was started in the middle of the last decade in response to a UCIA impetus. Information on Virginia Tech alumni, both international students who have studied here in Blacksburg and US students now working and living overseas, is updated in Banner to provide a resource for faculty who are traveling. Events have been held in London, Paris, and India. Plans are being made to contact alumni more frequently and a kit is being developed to ensure continuity within the department and to serve as a means of keeping in touch more effectively with alumni. Ginny stated that they are seeking input and advice to better serve faculty who are traveling as well as provide service opportunities for alumni. There are challenges to updating this information as emails may no longer be valid, or graduating students initially provided local addresses in Blacksburg that don't identify them as international. The program is now making more specific efforts to contact former students. Alumni often think that contact is linked to requests for donations from development and may not respond to inquiries for updated information. The VT, India project used Hokies Abroad for a networking event; this is one example of the ways this resource

can be leveraged. Ginny asked college reps to help put out the word about the efforts to revitalize the program, noting that often the best way to stay in touch with alumni is through professors as personal contacts. Karen DePauw commented that graduate students are sent an exit survey upon completion of their studies, but they are not quite so tied into the idea of alumni. Due to cost restrictions associated with international mailings, alumni overseas do not receive the VT magazine; they are emailed a link to the online version of the publication but if email addresses are out of date that does not work. Dr. Dooley advocated for a strategy to locate alumni, update contact information, and reach out to students before they leave the campus. Debra Stoudt added that CLAHS faculty who are traveling overseas, either with students or for other types of university business, often try to meet with international alumni chapter leaders.

Ginny mentioned the need to find ways to connect with new students. There are many welcome events for both graduate and undergraduate international students and another one sponsored by the Alumni Association may seem like overkill; Dr. Dooley recommended working with the Graduate Center and the Cranwell Center to coordinate for visibility and hosting. He noted that the concept of being an alumnus often has little meaning to an international student. The Alumni Association is going to have a booth at the international street fair and is also using a list of personal contacts; a new logo and website have also been designed. The Atlantic Coast Conference schools are having a conference that might provide additional ideas. Guru Ghosh suggested it would be beneficial to disaggregate the US nationals living overseas from internationals who have studied here. Ginny noted that the Beijing chapter organized their own events and have their own networking activities, but the Alumni Association is happy to provide assistance in getting programs started.

7. Other items

- Dr. Stoudt distributed a flyer for a study abroad information session organized by one of the Young Ambassadors of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).
- Karen DePauw noted that the Global Perspectives program is entering its seventh year. This program is for doctoral and masters' students and encompasses two weeks of travel that includes a visit to the Villa Maderni in Switzerland and partnerships with European universities such as Strasberg, Politecnico di Milano, Basel, and Lund. This year she is also organizing the Graduate Deans Global Partnership Experience, which will include travel to Paris, Strasburg, Basel, Zurich, and Lugano. There are currently approximately 100 Global Perspectives alumni, most of them Virginia Tech graduates; this unique program was developed here at Virginia Tech and benefits the university through connections and networking opportunities.
- David Brady announced that Congress has instituted a ban on NASA working with Chinese companies; it likely will affect cooperative agreements and grants. An internal audit in Mechanical Engineering revealed that many faculty traveling overseas are not in compliance with filing the travel authorization form. These forms are reviewed by his office and a travel advisory is then forwarded to the traveler. Some software, such as GPS, is restricted from being taken overseas; there are civil fines and liabilities involved for infractions. These forms must be filed each time someone travels as the regulations change. Mr. Brady cited several examples of industrial espionage and cases when faculty have been detained and/or property confiscated. Key countries are Syria, Sudan, Cuba, Iran, China, and North Korea.
- Leter Daku announced that financial aid funding has been identified for short-term study abroad programs. The criteria have not yet been determined as the funding was identified recently but will likely be need-based and must be repaid. He will check to see if students can use this for more immediate expenses as some of their financial aid comes later in the application and travel process.

- Bob Smith observed that this was John Dooley's last meeting as Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs. On behalf of the council, Dr. Smith thanked Dr. Dooley for his leadership and vision and wished him the best as he moves to his new position at the Virginia Tech Foundation.

There were no further items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 2:31.

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

April 9, 2012

May 14, 2012