

UCIA Meeting
Monday, March 13, 2017
10:30 a.m. – noon
International Affairs Offices, Conference Room A

Jenene Belcher, *Guest Services Coordinator/International Credit Evaluator, Registrar's Office*
David Clubb, *Director, Cranwell International Center*
Van Crowder, *Executive Director, Office of International Research, Education, and Development*
Monika Gibson, *Director of Student Services, Graduate School*
Stephanie Hart, *Director, Advising Center, College of Natural Resources and the Environment*
Elaine Humphrey, *Director, Rice Center for Leader Development, Corps of Cadets*
Theresa Johansson, *Director, Global Education Office*
Ian Leuschner, *Director, International Support Services*
Karl Markgraf, *Associate Vice President for International Affairs*
Gerhardt Schurig, *Professor, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine*
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies and Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*
Latanya Walker, *Director of Alumni Relations for Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement*
Samantha Winn, *University Libraries*

Guests:

Andrea Brunais, *Communications Director, Outreach and International Affairs*
Dana Cruikshank, *Director of Communications, OIRED*
Jessica Muller, substitute recorder, *OIRED*

1. Welcome, introductions, and approval of February minutes

David Clubb called the meeting to order and asked all participants to introduce themselves. A motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

2. Draft memo regarding inclusion of international metrics in the PIBB process

Ian Leuschner suggested that the topic of the draft memo expressing UCIA concerns with the Partnership Incentive Based Budget (PIBB) budget model be tabled until the April meeting, when the memo authors, Glenda Scales and Svetlana Filiatreau, will be present to discuss. In the interest of ensuring that UCIA can make a timely statement on a process which is already underway, Theresa Johansson will prepare an updated memo draft following a meeting of the OIA Directors on Wednesday March 15th, and David Clubb will circulate the updated draft to UCIA members.

3. Special Topic: International Education Week 2017

International Education Week, November 13-17, 2017, is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences ([Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs](#)).

David Clubb shared that the Cranwell International Center hosted an International Week on the VT Campus in Spring 2015 and again in Fall 2016, to coincide with the State Department-sponsored International Education Week. For both events, the Center solicited activities and sessions from constituents across campus. However, organizing this event puts significant stress on staffing resources at the Cranwell International Center, and in light of this, David asked the committee to consider whether

to continue hosting an International Week at Virginia Tech and if so, how it might best be managed and improved.

Samantha Winn and Latanya Walker shared their experiences with other recognition events organized under a similar model, in which one campus organization provides primary leadership while receiving input and assistance from stakeholders.

Karl Markgraf suggested that OIA could provide funding to support an “anchor event” such as a Keynote Address, and recommended that the event be organized by a subcommittee of UCIA with involvement from Student Affairs. Debra Stoudt shared her observation that poster sessions are effective at encouraging one-on-one engagement and suggested that a club or group could sponsor such a session around a lunch meal. Ian Leuschner suggested that in future, the event be scheduled in Spring, to coincide with the International Street Fair.

David Clubb will send an email to UCIA members, framing the discussion above and inviting volunteers to participate in a subcommittee to organize an International Week event to take place in Spring 2018.

4. Constituent Reports

a. OIA

Karl Markgraf informed UCIA that the Global Travel Oversight Committee (GTOC), which created the 1070 policy last year, will be scaling back its schedule of meetings to twice weekly with ad-hoc as needed. The GTOC has recently decided to extend the option to purchase CISI coverage to volunteers/guests/scoping mission participants, and the section of the website pertaining to this coverage is being revised to reflect this decision. After receiving a student request to visit Mexico with a College of Architecture Study Abroad program while the country is under a State Department Travel Warning, the GTOC performed a risk evaluation and met with the Dean of the College to negotiate conditional approval for travel to areas in Mexico not designated as high-risk zones. The GTOC also worked with the leadership of a local church group to extend CISI coverage to all members of a Virginia Tech student team traveling to Honduras as part of a church-sponsored trip. On a separate occasion, the GTOC determined that participation of friends, family and non- Virginia Tech volunteers in VT study abroad programs violates Policy 1070.

Karl also announced that the newly-formed Global Education Approval Committee has finalized membership and will soon have its first meeting. OIA is engaged in other new initiatives including working with the Language and Culture Institute to establish a new partnership with Vietnam National University, Hanoi and Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City. The “2 + 2” program envisioned will be focused on business and economics. In addition, OIA will be hosting the former provost of the University of Aleppo and his spouse, the former head of the International School of Aleppo, for a speaking engagement on March 29. Lastly, an OIA Graduate Student Assistant has just completed an assessment of Virginia Tech’s involvement in Africa, with a final narrative report that presents an impressive comprehensive picture of the University’s activities. She will be invited to share these results at a future UCIA meeting.

b. OIRED

Van Crowder began by introducing Dana Cruikshank, OIRED’s new Director of Communications, who was present at the meeting.

A team comprised of staff from OIRED and the School of Education has just returned from a 10-day scoping mission in Egypt, where they gathered information to inform a VT response to an upcoming USAID RFP for STEM teacher training. OIRED will be collaborating with the International Institute of Education on this

proposal. In addition, OIRED is planning a spring scoping mission to Haiti to investigate the potential for application of a multidisciplinary, community-wellness model of intervention similar to the very successful VT TEAM Malawi. Tom Thompson and Laura Zanotti will lead this mission, which will be focused on exploring opportunities in agriculture and health as well as partnership with the University of Fondwa, where Virginia Tech has an MOU. In Cambodia, OIRED is writing a proposal with InnovATE and the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA) to develop pre-service and in-service training curricula for extension agents and to shape a more active outreach role for RUA. The Office also expects to have a request for a USAID Associate Award proposal in Tanzania, to work with Sokoine University of Agriculture as well as Ministry of Agriculture Training Institutes (MATIs). OIRED has recently created a database of Agricultural Extension Agents with international expertise and/or interest, with Joe Hunnings, CALS Extension Director of Planning and Reporting.

c. Global Education

Theresa Johanssen announced that the Global Education Office has just finished Open Doors reporting and firm Study Abroad numbers will be available soon. Over the past month, the Office has prioritized disseminating information about the upcoming Dean's Seminar on Global Challenges to freshmen students and Academic Advisors. The seven students enrolled in the new Ghana Study Abroad program are currently taking a preparatory course with Brett Shadle and will be departing on May 23. These two programs have provided the opportunity for the Global Education Office to undertake creative structural solutions for programs that involve more than one college. These structural solutions are part of an overall movement towards greater centralization of SA programs in the Global Education Office. In addition, a new Department of Economics Study Abroad program in Peru has allowed the Global Education Office the opportunity to develop a new model for programs combining both inbound and study abroad components. The intro to the summer course will be conducted by collaborative video conference between students at Virginia Tech and University of Peru. Students from Peru will then visit laboratory facilities at Virginia Tech, and following that, Virginia Tech students will participate in a field experience in Peru.

d. International Support Services

Ian Leuschner provided a summary of the new Executive Order, effective March 16, which suspends entry by visitors from six of the seven countries represented in the prior Executive Order. These countries include Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. The entry suspension exempts permanent US residents or those who have dual nationality with a country not on the above list. The question of whether South Sudan is considered a part of Sudan has not been officially clarified. Ian warned that although it is likely that South Sudan is considered separately, caution is recommended. Travelers to the countries listed above should be prepared for additional questioning at Customs.

In addition, Ian reported that effective April 3rd, US Citizenship and Immigration Services will be suspending premium processing of H1B visas. Those who wish to take advantage of this service prior to its suspension must send all documents to International Support Services by Thursday March 16 in order to meet this deadline.

e. Cranwell International Center

David Clubb reported that Cranwell International Center has submitted data to the Open Doors report and the total number of international students at Virginia Tech is 4,232. The Center will be hosting a number of upcoming events, including the VT World Cup on April 2, an expanded International Street Fair on April 23, and the International Student Achievement Ceremony on May 11 from 9-11 a.m. The Center is in the process of providing free tax software to international students to support them in filing their

taxes. David also shared that representatives from the Cranwell International Center will be presenting on Mozaiko, an intercultural living-learning community, at the April 3 Board of Visitors Meeting. This summer, 24 Fulbright students from Germany will be arriving to Virginia Tech for a three-week summer program and will be participating in a new program to sharpen their science communication skills.

There were no other items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 A.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 10.