

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

*Present:*

Don Back, *Director, Language and Culture Institute*  
Suzie Baker, *Interim Director, Cranwell International Center*  
Jackie Bixler, *Chair, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures*  
David Brady, *Director, Export Control and Secure Research Compliance*  
Andrea Brunais, *Communications Director, Outreach and International Affairs*  
Rachel Fitzgerald, *Assistant Director for Program Management, Global Education Office*  
Andrew Fortin, *Financial Aid Specialist, University Scholarships and Financial Aid*  
Michael Herndon, *Director of Summer and Winter Programs*  
Sonia Hirt, *Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, CAUS*  
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*  
Jerzy Nowak, *International Programs, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*  
Miriam Rich, *Director of Communications, OIRE*  
Ginny Ritenour, *Alumni Chapter Coordinator, Virginia Tech Alumni Association*  
Gerhardt Schurig, *International Programs Strategist*  
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies and Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*  
Elankumaran Subbiah, *Associate Professor, VMRCVM*  
Eric Vance, *Faculty Senate; Assistant Research Professor and Director of LISA (Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis)*

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

Don Back called the meeting to order and asked participants to introduce themselves. A motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting was made by Miriam Rich, seconded by Sonia Hirt, and approved by all.

**2. Tracking International Activities**

As a follow-up to an earlier discussion on establishing a database to track international activities, Scott Farmer, Director of Outreach Information Services, provided some background information on similar projects with which he has been involved. He showed several examples which eventually followed the same trajectory: after a few (3 – 5) years, interest in the project wanes and it is difficult to find people to will maintain them. In some instances a project was deemed important enough that a dedicated staff person was assigned to enter updates. Dr. Farmer posed a question to the group: what are some creative ways to move forward with this initiative, particularly in a resource-strapped environment? Miriam Rich noted that updating websites and databases is not a priority compared to other more urgent deadlines and this task inevitably get deferred. The issues therefore are not related to funding but whether the projects are sustainable, necessary, and useful, particularly if they are not missed once they become outdated. Jerzy Nowak commented that during a recent visit to CALS by President Sands, information regarding international projects had been collected from faculty activity reports but a closer

look revealed that the information had not been scrutinized and updated during the past 15 years; they were still reporting old research and re-reporting information that inadvertently overstated the actual work being conducted. They are now trying to correct this information. Analytics can help with understanding who actually looks at these databases. It is natural to want to showcase work at the highest level but there is also a tendency to keep it within colleges for an internal audience. Keeping such a database up-to-date can also help improve Virginia Tech's international rankings, a goal stated by the new administration which might make the project of interest. This work has in the past been done by graduate assistants but the consensus was that the high rate of turnover in that position is not conducive successful implementation of this project. Another potential issue is the use of different systems which may not facilitate an easy merger of existing information. All this feedback will be reported to COIA, which is where the discussion initiated.

### **3. Constituent updates**

#### **a. International Education Policy committee**

Ian Leuschner reported that questions regarding the alumni awards selection criteria had come up at COIA; therefore guidelines and recommendations for future review committees will be gathered and forwarded to COIA. The IEPC is still in discussion regarding a new faculty compensation model, so the rest of the meeting focused on addressing the services that constituents would like to have the GEO provide.

#### **b. Global Education Office**

Theresa Johansson reported that the GEO is continuing its efforts to centralize services. She added that a recent conversation on student exchange agreements (SEAs) indicated that the status of participating students can no longer be mixed: undergraduate students going overseas must be matched by sending undergraduates rather than graduates, since the graduate school is not receiving compensation for the slots that incoming students fill. This is effective immediately but students with applications in the pipeline are exempted and no effort will be made to address this retroactively. Theresa announced that two faculty grant opportunities will soon be available, one with seed money for startup programs and another for curricular innovations. The office is working on the language for the call for applications and the process will start on April 1. Theresa will continue meeting with representatives from the different colleges as the university looks to move forward with a new funding model. A series of trainings will be held the week of April 27 – May 1, to include Title IX, Safe Zone, and travel reimbursement. Faculty development program workshops will continue with the goal of implementing a collegial, conversational interactive style of mentoring to help faculty learn how to design programs. Finally, Theresa reported that GEO advisor Rebecca Johnson had organized a series of scholarship information sessions that were very successful and well-attended; that activity will be repeated in the future.

#### **c. OIRED**

Miriam Rich filled in for OIRED interim director Keith Moore who is in Gainesville, Florida with the InnovATE project partners at the University of Florida. The IPM team is currently in Salt Lake City for the triennial IPM symposium. OIRED is also partnering with VMRCVM and CALS on a Livestock Innovation Lab RFP that would award \$10 million for 5 years for projects in Ethiopia, Nepal, Tanzania, Cambodia, and several other countries. Work on the Oman project is progressing as well.

Gerhardt Schurig commented that conditions in Yemen are deteriorating and travel to countries in the region is a concern. Even if there is not a travel warning for a particular country, the entire region is volatile and all travelers should exercise a high degree of caution. David Brady reminded the group that the OESRC works with an FBI liaison and can offer defense orientations that are very security-oriented and beneficial. Among the other resources available are the emergency evacuation service

offered by MedEx insurance, a travel evaluation committee, and the US State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to track travelers. It was noted that during recent VT travel to Saudi Arabia and Oman, the Saudi embassy was closed due to unrest in the region. It is important to read and heed the State Department advisories and warnings in the larger context of each situation.

**d. Language and Culture Institute**

Don Back reported that the VTLCI's program for spouses, a part of the President's InclusiveVT initiatives, is being well attended with now about 40 regular participants, most of whom are spouses of graduate students – with some visiting scholars and researchers. These intensive courses are offered in half-semester terms and are well-matched with the goals of developing competency for partners. The VTLCI is hosting Dr. Wang, Dean of the Department of Foreign Languages at the University of Science and Technology of China, who will introduce the university at the meeting. The 2015 cohort of Humphrey Fellows is scheduled to arrive next week.

**e. Cranwell International Center**

Suzie Baker announced they have extended offers of admission to 1400 students, but have implemented a new approach to issuing immigration documents that entails sending those materials only to the students who have indicated a serious interest in attending and will accept responsibility for shipping costs. To date 354 students have followed up with Cranwell and 124 I-20s have been issued. Spring is a busy time for advising and Cranwell personnel have had about 250 meetings per month, which means that approximately 10% of the international population has had face-to-face contact hours with staff. The Parade of Nations was rained out during international week so it is being rescheduled for April 14; participants will meet at Harper Hall at 4:30 p.m. and proceed down West Campus Drive and around the Drillfield. The route may be extending pending weather and participant preparedness. Faculty and staff are invited to participate as well and link to sign up will be sent. Jackie Bixler, Sarah Sierra and Don Back are among those named to the search committee for the new director of Cranwell. Jerzy Nowak provided an update on the maintenance of the Peace Garden; the New River Valley Master Gardening Association has indicated they would like to become involved with this project. Furthermore, work study students can assist as well; departments would have to pay 25% of the cost but this option could provide a steady supply of workers.

**f. Graduate School**

Monika Gibson was unable to attend the meeting due to the ongoing Graduate Education Week activities but asked that council members be made aware of the events by sharing the calendar of events via email.

**g. OESRC**

David Brady had nothing to report.

**h. International Support Services**

Ian Leuschner reported that online English testing for J-1 visa applicants will be provided by Skype calls with VTLCI employees while waiting to implement a more long-term procedure with a third-party provider. He expressed everyone's gratitude to the LCI for offering this solution and noted that nine scholars from the VMRCVM had been waiting for this to be resolved. The insurance requirements for J-1 scholars will change May 15; Ian has met with Risk Management to create an RFP that will offer manageable levels of coverage with several entry points. Visiting scholars are unaware of the actual costs of medical care in the US and cannot be evacuated in the case of a serious medical emergency. Hospitals are willing to write off some of the expenses incurred but if remaining balances are left

unpaid, it can result in outstanding judgements against scholars which could have a negative impact should they ever try to return to the US.

#### **4. Search updates: AVPIA, OIRED, GEO, Cranwell**

Don Back delivered an update on several ongoing searches on behalf of Guru Ghosh. The search committee for the associate vice president for international affairs has invited four candidates to campus; names will be released later this week. The search committee for the executive director of OIRED provided a recommendation and negotiations with that candidate are in progress. Additional funding for two positions at the GEO is expected from the Provost's office for FY 2016 and the search is ongoing for the risk management position.

Suzie Baker added that Tom Brown and Cynthia Bonner are leading the search for the new director of Cranwell and there will be a meeting on Wednesday, March 25 with stakeholders to fine-tune the job description. They anticipate the search will launch in early April with on-campus interviews taking place early in the summer.

Don provided some updates from Outreach and International Affairs. Dr. Ghosh and Deans Paul Winistorfer (CNRE) and Elizabeth Spiller will be travelling this summer to Shandong to pursue a university-wide strategic partnership with Shandong University's new Qingdao campus. Representatives from Virginia Tech, including leaders from Pamplin and Engineering leaders, will participate in a groundbreaking ceremony for the Oman project in June. Finally, the Honors program reported that the Presidential Global Scholars program based at the Steger Center has received a large number of applications—37—for the Spring 2016 program, a significant increase from the 22 students currently participating. Pamplin will no longer send groups to the Steger Center after the Fall 2015 semester and an RFP may be implemented for new programs.

#### **5. Introduction to University of Science and Technology of China**

Professor Wang Tao, Dean of the Department of Foreign Languages at the University of Science and Technology of China, gave a presentation on the university which is one of the top-ranked institutions of higher education in China. The university was founded in 1958 in Beijing but later moved to Hefei in a less-developed part of the country that is near UNESCO World Heritage sites. The university has 15 colleges, among them a unique College for Gifted Youth for children under 15, and boasts a high faculty-to-student ratio as well as the highest rate of successful proposals submitted to China's National Science Foundation. The USTC has partnerships with more than 200 universities and research institutes in the US, including youth camp programs. They are hoping to increase opportunities for students studying English and have a partnership with the VTLCI.

#### **6. Humphrey Fellows update**

Don Back announced that this year's cohort of Humphrey Fellows will be arriving in early April. CLAHS will be hosting a welcome reception for them. Several of them will attend the April meeting.

#### **7. By-laws update**

Reed Kennedy reported that the revised by-laws were approved by COIA at the most recent meeting and will now be forwarded to the University Council.

#### **8. Nominations for UCIA Vice Chair, 2015 – 2016**

Don Back reminded the group that after the April meeting current UCIA vice chair Nicole Sanderlin will step into the role of chair for the 2015 – 2016 academic year and a new vice chair is needed. No volunteers or nominations were immediately forthcoming and the issue will be revisited in April.

**9. Other items**

There were no other items to report and the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

**10. 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):

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