

UCIA Meeting
Monday, March 31, 2014
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
International Affairs Office, Meeting Room A

Present:

Don Back, *Director, Language and Culture Institute*
Lynda Bailey, *Assistant Registrar for Transfer*
Mike Bertelsen, *Director, OIRE*
Jackie Bixler, *Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures*
Brian Bolton, *Director, Cranwell International Center*
Cynthia Bonner, *Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs*
David Brady, *Director, Export Control and Secure Research Compliance*
Stephanie Breeding, *Senior Assistant Director for Public Communications, Scholarships and Financial Aid*
Guru Ghosh, *Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs*
Sonia Hirt, *Associate Dean, College of Architecture and Urban Studies*
Reed Kennedy, *Director of International Programs, Pamplin College of Business*
Stephanie Lang, *Academic Advising Coordinator, CNRE*
Ian Leuschner, *Director, International Support Services*
Tim Long, *Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives, College of Science*
Jennifer Nardine, *University Libraries*
Bill Pruitt, *Assistant Director for Student Services, Education Abroad*
Miriam Rich, *Communications Director, OIRE*
Ginny Ritenour, *Alumni Relations*
Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*
Jennifer Quijano Sax, *Director, Education Abroad*
Gerhardt Schurig, *International Programs Strategist, Outreach and International Affairs*
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies and Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*
Elankumaran Subbiah, *Associate Professor, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine*

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

Elankumaran Subbiah called the meeting to order and asked participants to introduce themselves. A motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting was made by Miriam Rich, approved by Jennifer Nardine, and passed unanimously. Dr. Subbiah requested a motion be made to approve a change to the agenda from the version that had been previously distributed. The motion was made by Ian Leuschner, seconded by Reed Kennedy, and passed unanimously.

2. Humphrey Fellows

Don Back provided an update on the Humphrey Fellows program, a Department of State initiative that selects mid-career professionals with unique and strategic careers from countries in transition to participate in two-year non-degree programs at universities throughout the United States. The selection process goes through the U.S. embassies in each country and is quite rigorous. The Language and Culture Institute has hosted groups of Fellows for the past eight years, providing them with a 20-week intensive English language instruction prior to the start of their academic programs. Don distributed an information sheet with brief biographical sketches on each of this year's Fellows, which included the schools they will be attending. Don noted that the Fellows enjoy the networking opportunities afforded to them during their time here, such as the CLAHS faculty reception that will take place on April 15. Two

of the Fellows attended the meeting and introduced themselves. Capt. Hussein El Hajj is an officer in the Lebanese security forces who will study issues related to human trafficking at the University of Minnesota. Ms. San Thida is the assistant director of the budget department for the ministry of finance in Myanmar (Burma). She will study public policy analysis and public administration at Syracuse University.

3. Constituent updates

a. International Education Policy committee

Jenny Sax reported that the IEPC did not meet this month since there is action pending on any work they would have discussed. The two documents—credit transfer waiver and voluntary health form—that had been sent forward to Commission on Outreach and International Affairs have both been approved. Jenny will be meeting with Ian Leuschner, Susan Angle in Services for Students with Disabilities, and representatives from Schiffert Health Center, Cook Counseling Center, and the Dean of Students this week to finalize implementation plans for the form. Updates will be announced on the UCIA and Education Abroad listervs. The transfer credit issue required that Virginia Tech students be in residence for their final few semesters, which served as a disincentive for Foreign Languages and Literatures majors in particular who could benefit from extended periods abroad during their junior or senior year. The Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies approved of the proposal to allow students to request a waiver and plans to amend it to include students who want to transfer credits earned during pre-approved programs at U.S universities. This would not have to go back to COIA for approval as the revision supersedes the original. It is set to be approved at the April 7 CUSP meeting. Dr. Subbiah congratulated Jenny and the committee for their work in getting this done and thanked them for their efforts.

b. Education Abroad

Jenny Sax reminded everyone that the mini-grant applications are due at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1. This is for the May-October application cycle; the applications for the November-April cycle are due in October. These grants provide up to \$2500 in seed money to fund the creation or expansion of programs to increase student participation. Programs with matching grants are preferred but it is not a requirement. Jenny announced has three faculty training opportunities in April:

- a pre-departure orientation focusing on health, safety and risk management on Friday, April 25 from 9 - noon in the Great Room of Ambler Johnston Hall;
- a Title IX training for study abroad leaders on responding to concerns of sexual violence or harassment of students while traveling abroad on Tuesday, April 29;
- a brown bag lunch in April on fund planning and management. VTEA organized a very helpful brown bag last Friday on Study Abroad Fund Planning and Management. The office is working with the controller's office to hold these trainings on a regular basis.

Details and links to RSVP for all these programs can be found on the Education Abroad website as well as in the next posting on the listervs.

Jenny added that the annual photo contest is underway. This is the second year it has been held in this format, with the work of the finalists displayed at the XYZ Gallery in downtown Blacksburg from April 14 – 27 and an awards reception and ceremony at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 27. A panel of distinguished judges from across campus has been invited to select the winners. More than 300 photos were submitted in the five categories.

Guru Ghosh asked about a follow-up process for the grants. Jenny replied that all award recipients must provide a report with detailed information within six months of the program. The applications are all reviewed and evaluated by a team. Most of the applications are for new programs

and the funding defrays the cost of site visits. Jenny remarked that all the proposals were strong and expressed a wish that more funding was available. The focus of the program has become more refined and consequently more competitive.

c. OIRED

Mike Bertelsen reported that the various OIRED projects had had several posters on display at the Dean's Forum and two faculty members working on the South Sudan project received the President's Award. The office is awaiting confirmation on a \$2.5M associate award in Armenia through the InnovATE project and is scoping smaller projects in Nicaragua and Indonesian. The RFA for the USAID Sustainable Intensification Feed the Future Lab, the follow-up to the Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management (SANREM) program currently administered by OIRED, is due in mid-May; the RFA for the Integrated Pest Management program has yet to be issued. The USAID mission in South Sudan has relocated to Nairobi and will be integrating peace activities into all future projects, including agriculture activities. Dr. Ghosh noted that this is critical information for the future of OIRED which is funded by soft money or donor-funded and its ability to maintain the critical mass of talented people depends on winning awards. Each of the current projects has at least four people affiliated with it (a director, an associate or assistant director, a communicator, and a financial specialist). The Sustainable Intensification program will award as much as \$50M but there is considerable competition for it, raising concerns regarding the future of OIRED if it is not the successful bidder. Dr. Subbiah asked why there the office focuses only on agriculture. Dr. Bertelsen replied that while they are incorporating certain health topics into their projects, the expertise within the office has a competitive advantage in the larger more multi-disciplinary agriculture projects. Dr. Subbiah commented that it would be beneficial for OIRED to partner with Carilion and work on the 'One Health' initiative that combines environmental, human, and animal health, a strategic move that could enhance Virginia Tech's position in the consortium of global universities.

d. Language and Culture Institute

Don Back announced that faculty from partner universities in Iraq/Kurdistan would be visiting campus in another four months for their two-week capstone experience. The program kicked off on-line curriculum development and higher education leadership components with an in-country weeklong seminar in March. Visiting the three Kurdish universities involved with the program in March required a total of fifteen hours of ground travel. LCI is participating in a Department of State-funded fair aimed at building the professoriate in Kurdistan. Don commented that there is a lot of oil in the region near the surface, which is therefore easier and cheaper to extract; it is expected that oil production in the region will triple over the next few years. The new Northern Virginia center will have its grand opening on April 30. Don was asked about the danger involved in working in Kurdistan. He replied that there is some but there are also so many opportunities. Don cited the example of a day he visited the University of Halabja when the university was closed due to vacation, yet 200 students came to attend his presentation on studying in the U.S.; the institutions in the region are very enthusiastic to develop partnerships. He plans to visit several other universities during his fair trip in April.

e. Cranwell International Center

Brian Bolton reported that it is International Week and several activities and student events are taking place throughout the university. He has been working with the admissions office regarding evaluation of foreign transcripts. Lynda Bailey added that they have been trying to refine applications and requirements for the inbound students as well as a tracking system for transcripts in order to meet the specific needs of the students and minimize the challenges they face; each country has its own unique system of grading. The office seeks to ensure that they are getting the highest quality students

and can facilitate the process but cannot help the students credits cannot be transferred. Don Back commented that the registrar's and admissions offices have made great strides and he commended the current team for their commitment to make sure that this problem is being addressed. The LCI has its own process to review transcripts and application; they work in conjunction with both the admissions office and Cranwell and the system has functioned well. Brian reminded the group that the street fair will be held on April 27 (Sunday) and the Center will move to Harper Hall on May 19.

f. OESRC

David Brady reported that all export licenses issued by both the State Department and Department of Commerce for Russia have been suspended. Iranian sanctions have changed somewhat recently and several types of electronic devices can now be exported; he recommended contacting the office for specific advice. There will be a university-wide meeting this week regarding resources for duty of care, the concept which states that the university has responsibility for faculty, staff, and students even while they are traveling abroad. The Infoguard conference will be held on April 15 in the Corporate Research Center, 2280 Kraft Drive. David elaborated that anyone can carry a laptop overseas as long as it does not require a license; any specialty software should be listed. These kinds of sanctions and subsequent regulations did not exist before. The OESRC has loaner laptops that anyone can borrow but faculty engaged in restricted research have priority use. Forensic snapshots are taken of the computers before and after travel.

g. International Support Services

Ian Leuschner announced that the office has moved to the Gateway Center on University City Boulevard, Suite 120. The associate director position was offered to and accepted by candidate Mollie LoJacono, who will officially begin that position on April 10. A search will begin for the coordinator position.

h. International Affairs

Guru Ghosh announced that the Education Abroad office will change its name to the Global Education office effective April 1. He reported that the Deans' Forum was a success and thanked the College of Engineering for their work organizing the event. June will be a very busy month for Dr. Ghosh due to several events including the Board of Visitors meeting and the 20th anniversary celebration of CESA, which coincides with the completion of the expansion project. Dr. Ghosh will be traveling to Switzerland to take part in the festivities.

Gerhard Schurig is spearheading a new initiative at CESA to maximize use of the facility by using it to host an annual scientific symposium in Virginia Tech's fields of strength. This is a great way to advertise the university's status, especially in regards to research; the idea has been well received by the deans but is still being refined. The expansion has resulted in a total 5200 square feet of new and/or renovated space. Incoming university president Timothy Sands will travel there as well to participate in the opening ceremony.

Work on the VT-India ICTAS project is scheduled to be completed by May 20. President Steger has committed to be there on May 19 for the grand opening. Other dignitaries will be in attendance, such as Senator Mark Warner and the U.S. Ambassador to India. The center will focus on energy harvesting (wind and solar)

The national search to fill the education abroad director position is being launched. Final touches are being put on it, which includes the renaming of the office. Dr. Ghosh has made budget requests from the provost's office to include funding for a new associate vice president for international affairs, \$40k to globalize the curriculum in Blacksburg, and additional funding to revise current syllabi across the university to include global perspectives.

Dr. Schurig provided updates on several Latin American initiatives. The ICTAS center affiliated with Austral is making positive progress; the country has a new government and there are new officials at the institution as well. The president of the Universidad San Francisco - Quito was in Blacksburg during the deans' forum and met with the deans to discuss ideas to expand the partnership between the two institutions. There is great potential for projects since there are facilities at the Galapagos Islands and in the Amazon jungle that can benefit both faculty research and student mobility. A new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed during his visit to begin the procedures. Dr. Schurig added that there are some options to develop programs in Costa Rica as well.

4. Reports from COIA

Don Back stated that Jenny had covered the topics he had attended to address during earlier discussions. Winners for the Alumni Awards have been chosen but those should be released by the office of university relations before any public announcements are made.

5. Additional items

- It was suggested Dr. Ghosh have an open house and that future UCIA meetings be held at the Gateway Center where parking is better.
- Council members requested that President Sands be invited to attend a UCIA meeting in the fall.
- Dr. Subbiah announced that Don Back will serve as the UCIA chair for the 2014 – 2015 academic year and a new vice chair would be elected at the next meeting. Any interested parties should contact Dr. Subbiah.
- Dr. Ghosh shared a copy of the current Delta in-flight magazine that featured an advertisement for Virginia Tech.

There were no additional items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

6. Schedule for meetings for 2013 – 2014 academic year

April 28, 2014

May

no meeting