

UCIA Meeting  
Monday, April 8, 2013  
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
International Affairs Office, Meeting Room A

*Present:*

Don Back, *Director, Language and Culture Institute*  
Suzie Baker, *Assistant Director, Cranwell International Center*  
Lynda Bailey, *Assistant Registrar for Transfer*  
Mike Bertelsen, *Interim Executive Director, OIRED*  
Jacqueline Bixler, *Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures*  
John Browder, *Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Architecture and Urban Studies*  
Guru Ghosh, *Associate Vice President for International Affairs*  
Reed Kennedy, *Director of International Programs, Pamplin College of Business*  
Ian Leuschner, *Director, International Support Services*  
Jennifer Nardine, *University Libraries*  
Jerzy Nowak, *International Programs, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*  
Ginny Ritenour, *Alumni Association*  
Bill Pruitt, *Assistant Director, Education Abroad*  
Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*  
Bob Smith, *Associate Dean and Professor, College of Natural Resources and Environment*  
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies & Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*  
Elankumaran Subbiah, *College of Veterinary Medicine*  
Danny White, *Director of Student-Athlete Affairs, Athletic Department*

*Humphrey Fellows guests:*

Leandro Chular, Argentina (*General Deputy Director of International Relations for the Argentine Senate*)  
Boldkhu Nanzad, Mongolia (*Deputy Director, Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy*)  
Lu Sam, Burma (Myanmar) (*Education Program Coordinator, Save the Children*)

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

Bob Smith called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the February meeting minutes. A motion to accept them was made by Jennifer Nardine, seconded by Reed Kennedy, and passed unanimously.

**2. Education Abroad updates**

Bill Pruitt announced that the applications for all scholarships processed through the office—Phi Beta Delta, OIRED, and ACC—were due March 29. They are currently being reviewed and winners will be announced at the end of April. The list will be sent to the UCIA listserv as well. The training for study abroad program leaders will be held at the Inn the morning of Friday, April 12; RSVPs can be sent via a link on the newsletter. The deadline for the mini-grants has been extended until April 15, which is also the day which the winners of the photo contest will be announced and the photo exhibit will open at the XYZ student gallery in downtown Blacksburg. The pre-departure orientation for students participating in non-faculty led programs will take place on Tuesday, April 23, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at 140 Hahn North. The next brown bag lunch is scheduled for 12:00 – 1:00 on Wednesday, April 24 at the International Affairs Offices; Rich Mathieson, communications coordinator for the Language and Culture Institute and Outreach and International Affairs, will give a presentation on how to take photos on study abroad trips

to tell a meaningful story. Bill reminded everyone about compliance with the 225 memo (signed memos and all supporting documents are due in the Education Abroad office one month prior to a group's departure) as well as the May 1 deadline for insurance enrollment for the Summer I session.

Guru Ghosh commended Education Abroad's newly-hired communications coordinator Rommelyn Conde for the good work she has been doing.

### **3. Cranwell International Center Updates**

Suzie Baker reported that the International Street Fair held Saturday, April 6, attracted more than 10,000 attendees. Plans are being made to improve next year's event, but overall it was a success. Dr. Smith agreed that the street fair was very well done and complimented them for highlighting the international presence on campus. It is the oldest university street fair in the country, having celebrated its 54<sup>th</sup> year. Cranwell student volunteers are going to work at a water station for the 3.2 Run for Remembrance on Saturday, April 13, and are hosting the VT World Cup. Suzie announced that the search is going to begin for the new director.

### **4. Task Force on Education Abroad Report**

John Browder presented the task force's findings and recommendations. This group had been activated after last year's search for an Education Abroad director revealed many discrepancies between Virginia Tech's programs and that of its peer institutions. Although many of the points raised may seem redundant to UCIA members, the report will be widely circulated and not all audience members will be reviewing the results from the same perspective. Employers like students who have had an education abroad experience and foreign language skills are desirable; data from Michigan State University demonstrates that students who participate in study abroad finish school more quickly with higher GPAs. Virginia Tech's Education Abroad office is under-resourced and not able to provide enough support for students or faculty. President Steger has indicated his approval of initiatives to increase campus-wide participation, with a target of 31% suggested. To achieve this goal, greater staffing and a management shift are in order, which may entail moving OIRED staff to work directly with Education Abroad. Furthermore, it was recommended to have a cadre of professional advisers to ensure that all programs are in compliance. Other proposed options included implementing freshman global seminars, expansion of non-traditional experiences, and incorporating study abroad into SACS accreditation requirements. Some concerns were expressed regarding the suggested relocation of the office, which might detract from its current trans-disciplinary association with international development. Additional means of garnering more financial support were also briefly discussed, as was the need to raise students' awareness of the importance of functioning as global citizens instead of merely seeing study abroad as an opportunity to participate in a cultural experience. Dr. Browder concluded his report by stating that Virginia Tech is capable of accomplishing all these goals.

Dr. Ghosh thanked Dr. Browder for his leadership in creating this bold and historic document that reflects the university's need for serious investment in Education Abroad and detailing not only why it is done but how it can be done better. These topics will remain as a standing agenda item for the UCIA to discuss and will be brought forward for voting and approval at the appropriate times.

### **5. International Education Policy Committee**

Guru Ghosh reported that this meeting had taken place immediately prior to the UCIA meeting and involved several UCIA members. The group has identified eight key areas that they will be discussing over the next several months to create deeper policies for implementation in the fall. Dr. Ghosh thanked the registrar's office staff who had attended the meeting for their participation.

## **6. Humphrey Fellows**

Don Back introduced Leandro Chulak, Boldkhun Nanzad, and Lu Sam, representatives from this year's group of Humphrey Fellows. This is the sixth year that the Language and Culture Institute has hosted the Fellows; it is one of two U.S. schools chosen from 100 applicants to host the intensive English language component of the Fellows program. They will be spending twenty weeks here at Virginia Tech; last year more than 100 faculty members were involved with them in meetings and networking opportunities. The Fellows have become an integral part of the internationalization of the campus and Dr. Smith encouraged everyone to interact with them.

## **7. Election of vice chair for 2013-2014**

Bob Smith confirmed that Dr. Subbiah would be able to serve as the chair next year and called for nominations for the vice chair for the 2013 – 2014 academic year. Don Back volunteered to serve in that capacity.

## **8. Message from incoming Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs**

Guru Ghosh reported that he was amazed to have been chosen and is honored to follow in the footsteps of John Dooley and Jerry Niles. He stated that dealing with the issues raised by the report from the Education Abroad Task Force is the first serious endeavor he will address. He assured the group that he will call upon them when help is needed.

## **9. Other items**

- Bob Smith stated that he was proud and honored to have served as the chair of the UCIA this year.
- Jackie Bixler reminded the group about the Arab Fest which runs April 8 - 13 and features a series of events, including movies, concerts, and a presentation on Thursday, April 11 by the newly-hired professor of Arabic, Nadine Sanno. All events are free and open to the public.
- Dr. Bixler added that she had recently returned from China to set up a study abroad program in conjunction with the Chinese Language Institute, which was started by Virginia Tech graduate and winner of the outstanding alumni award Robbie Fried. The institute is affiliated with a Chinese university and located in the city of Guilin.
- Guru Ghosh announced that President Steger has asked him to chair a task force on safety and security for international student travel, both incoming and outbound.

There were no further announcements and the meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

## **10. Schedule for meetings for 2012 – 2013 academic year (all meetings take place on Mondays, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., at the International Affairs Offices):**

May 13