

UCIA Meeting
Monday, April 25, 2011
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
International Affairs Office, Meeting Room A

Present:

Don Back, *Director, Language and Culture Institute*
Mike Bertelsen, *Assistant Director, OIRED*
Jeremy Biletdeaux, *Assistant Program Director, Education Abroad*
Cynthia Bonner, *Chief of Staff and Director of Administration, Student Affairs*
S.K. De Datta, *Associate Vice President for International Affairs and Director, OIRED*
John Dooley, *Vice President, Outreach and International Affairs*
Reed Kennedy, *Instructor of Management, Director of International Programs,
Pamplin College of Business*
Eric Miller, *Program Director, Education Abroad*
Jennifer Nardine, *Instruction and Outreach Librarian*
Miriam Rich, *Communications Coordinator, OIRED*
Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*
Richard Shryock, *Assoc Professor & Dept Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures*
Barry Simmons, *Director, Scholarships and Financial Aid*
Robert Smith, *Associate Dean and Professor, College of Natural Resources and Environment*
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies and Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and
Human Sciences*
Susan Sumner, *Associate Dean for Academic Programs, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*

Guests:

Hébert Monfistan, Haiti; Ministry of Public Health and Population
Sanjaya Neupane, Nepal; Kantipur National Daily
Shaymaa Zaghlool Reyad, Egypt; Egyptian Cabinet Information and Decision Support Center

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

Debra Stoudt called the meeting to order and asked participants to introduce themselves. Among those in attendance were three Humphrey Fellows.

Dr. Stoudt noted that minutes had been distributed previously for council members' review; there were no additional corrections and she declared them accepted.

2. Education Abroad updates

Eric Miller reported that fourteen applications were received and reviewed for the faculty small grants programs and four \$2,500 awards were made. A service learning project in Kenya and a French language class in Senegal were among those selected. The Education Abroad office has also reviewed twenty submissions for the ACC scholarships and selected three to be presented \$1000 scholarships, as well as fourteen OIRED scholarships (out of sixty-four applications) in which every college was represented. Dr. Miller observed that even though the applicants were all strong students, there were not many who had applied for the long-term non-traditional programs. Insurance proposals are also being reviewed; they are still in the confidential phase of the process so he cannot provide any details but there are qualified responders who will be subject to another round of evaluation. The Education Abroad office will sponsor a mandatory pre-departure orientation on April 26 for the 168 students

participating in bilateral exchange programs as well as non-VT and direct enroll programs. The students who attended the spring semester program at Punta Cana returned last week and presented a showcase of their experiences; although that group is relatively small, they are enthusiastic and motivated. Thus far there are 469 students participating in summer programs, with another 124 currently registered for fall semester programs. It is anticipated that both these numbers will grow as the numbers have been increasing. This spring 324 students studied abroad, compared to 256 the previous year; 72 students participated in winter break programs compared to 46 last year. Dr. Miller added that he is still trying to determine priorities and initiatives for the office. He is reviewing minutes of past years' UCIA meetings to see what has been addressed and how those changes have been implemented, citing issues such as faculty compensation, travel safety and the travel advisory committee as examples of topics that may need to be revisited.

Dr. De Datta asked if the Punta Cana model, which has six professors rotating in and teaching, provides a coherent experience for students and if consideration should be given to implementing a style more like that used at CESA. Dr. Dooley replied that the Business program at CESA does indeed use several professors and the CESA model is going to change soon. Dr. Miller added that the Punta Cana students seem to enjoy their time there and do not perceive the class offerings as being too random. Dr. Dooley acknowledged that the presence of Ben Hulefeld as logistics coordinator at Punta Cana offers a constant as well and can contribute programmatically. Don Back asked if there were trends for summer programs; Dr. Miller replied that most students are participating in faculty-led programs and there is still a preference for Western European countries but there continues to be a growing interest and a definite upswing in travel to Asia, including India, China, and Japan. Three of the mini-grants were awarded for programs in Africa. Dr. Miller suggested they can build on this and market the opportunities. Richard Shryock added that funding continues to be an issue for creating foreign language programs. Salary and infrastructure are concerns and extra funding is likely necessary to realistically manage these programs; faculty interest is there, along with departmental support for these initiatives, but funding is currently a drawback. Dr. Simmons asked what the priority areas were for the scholarships; Dr. Miller replied that both the ACC and VT/OIRED scholarships give preference to longer term programs in non-traditional locations for non-traditional majors; not many applicants met all these qualifications but awardees were all very strong in their respective areas. Dr. Simmons offered to follow up with Dr. Miller to discuss financial aid options. Dr. Dooley also suggested that Dr. Wubah, Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education, may be able to help create a strategy for implementing a model in which the tuition follows the program. Richard Shryock recalled that in the past funding was determined using a formula based on previous years' enrollments and this would likely have to change in order to promote expansion of programs. Dr. Dooley concurred that this was complicated and necessitated a year's lag, but argued that the summer tuition following the programs was a viable option. Eric Miller agreed that this idea could lead to more interdisciplinary programs and other benefits outside programs. In response to a question from Dr. De Datta, Dr. Dooley said this decision regarding tuition would have to be made at the state level, not through the Board of Visitors; he mentioned that the University of Virginia runs its summer programs through its School of Continuing and Professional Education and awards four credit hours. Dr. Dooley maintained that a model can be found that will allow the colleges to benefit. Reed Kennedy suggested that this should be kept on the agenda for coming meetings.

In response to a question from Nicole Sanderlin, Jeremy Biletdeaux informed the group that the next Education Abroad fair will take place on the Drillfield on September 21, 2011.

3. Humphrey Fellows

Don Back distributed biographical sketches of this year's Humphrey Fellows. He announced that this is the fourth year that Virginia Tech has hosted the Fellows, who attend intensive English classes at the Language and Culture Institute prior to going to other universities within the U.S. for further specialized work within their specialties. This year there are fifteen from a wide variety of regions and professions; they are selected by U.S. embassy personnel in their home countries based on their leadership potential. A university-wide reception will be held for them on May 10. Debra Stoudt added that CLAHS had hosted an event for them attended by faculty and students. They will also be setting up a meeting with Dr. De Datta and are interested in other networking opportunities. Dr. Dooley commended Don Back and the LCI staff for their work in making this program so successful. He asked whether the program will be impacted by proposed budget cuts; Don Back replied that he is not sure but hopes that the program will be sustained due to its strategic importance.

4. Election of UCIA chair and vice chair, 2011 – 2012

Dr. De Datta announced that Reed Kennedy had served as vice chair this academic year with the understanding that he would assume the role of chair during the coming year. Don Back made a formal motion to nominate him and Barry Simmons seconded it; the council members voted unanimously to elect him chair. Dr. De Datta called for nominations from the floor for the position of vice chair. Susan Sumner nominated Bob Smith, who was also elected unanimously. These positions will become effective July 1. Dr. De Datta thanked Debra Stoudt for her outstanding work as chair the 2010-2011 year.

5. Informational items

Dr. Dooley noted that the proposed federal budget reductions could have a huge negative impact on Virginia Tech. A letter has been sent to the Secretary of Education, all Virginia state senators, and the two U.S. senators asking them to seek some sort of compromise. The proposed budget calls for an up to 60% reduction in international initiatives, including Fulbright programs, and Title VI has been hit particularly hard. Dr. Dooley urged council members to voice their opinion to elected officials.

Dr. Dooley updated the group on changes to the programs at CESA. An RFP system had been in place for programs taking place there; Pamplin will have a component there this fall as well as fall 2012, but no bids were received for Spring 2012. This has led to the creation of the University Honors Presidential Global Scholars program. University Distinguished Professors and Alumni Distinguished Professors will be recruited to teach modules consisting of 2 – 3 week long experiences; among those who have already expressed interest are Nikki Giovanni and Bob Bodnar. The President's Office is committing resources to support this initiative, offering up to \$500 per participant. Each student will be required to develop a learning project. An information session will be held next week. The Honors program spans all colleges and disciplines and this has the potential to become a very high-end quality program.

Dr. Dooley stated that the search for the Associate Vice President for International Affairs is wrapping up and he expects to make an announcement by the end of the week or early next week.

Barry Simmons added that one of the items targeted in the Ryan resolution were Pell Grants. They are currently awarded in the amount of \$5550 and this will be reduced to \$2300 per recipient. The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid has published a newsletter with information on how to save student aid.

Mike Bertelsen added that Virginia Tech has been able to have a student recruiter on campus and this position may also be threatened by budget cuts.

Debra Stoudt asked college representatives to remind any faculty leading programs overseas during the summer to run the second round of conduct checks. There was some discussion as how to evaluate whether this protocol has been useful. Nicole Sanderlin mentioned they the College of Engineering turned down a student applicant due to violations. Dr. Stoudt suggested that if someone had disregarded such advice they would have a better idea of how effective the system was. Faculty program leaders will be polled this fall to discuss their experiences.

6. Other items and scheduling of next meeting

There were no other items to discuss. A meeting had been scheduled for May 23 but several group members will be traveling and there were no items currently on the agenda. The meetings will resume again in August. Debra Stoudt thanked all for their participation during the year. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30.