

UCIA Meeting
Monday, August 22, 2011
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
International Affairs Office, Meeting Room A

Present:

Althea Aschmann, *Head of Cataloging, University Libraries*

Don Back, *Director, Language and Culture Institute*

Laurie Brogdon, *Director of Multicultural Alumni Programs, Alumni Relations;
Office of Diversity and Inclusion*

S.K. De Datta, *Outgoing Associate Vice President for International Affairs and Director, OIRED*

John Dooley, *Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs*

Guru Ghosh, *Associate Vice President for International Affairs*

Reed Kennedy, *Director of International Programs and Professor of Management,
Pamplin College of Business*

Miriam Rich, *Communications Coordinator, OIRED*

Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*

Richard Shryock, *Associate Professor and Department Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures*

Barry Simmons, *Director, Scholarships and Financial Aid*

Bob Smith, *Associate Dean and Professor, College of Natural Resources and the Environment*

Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies and Procedures,
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*

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

Reed Kennedy called the meeting to order and asked participants to introduce themselves. He noted that this would be Dr. De Datta's last meeting and introduced Dr. Guru Ghosh, incoming associate vice president for international affairs. Minutes of the April 2011 meeting had been distributed previously for council members' review and were declared approved as submitted.

2. Follow-up topics from 2010 - 2011

- **Mandatory Health /Evacuation Insurance**

John Dooley stated that Ian Leuschner, Eric Miller, Reed Kennedy, Jeremy Billetdeaux, and Ellen Douglas (Office of Risk Management) had served on a task force to explore insurance options and make recommendations, working with Kim Dulaney in Purchasing. Dr. Dooley shared copies of the resolution that had been drafted; because it would entail a mandatory fee for students, it will be presented to the Board of Visitors for their approval at their retreat the weekend of August 27 - 28. Dr. Dooley therefore asked for endorsement for the resolution from the council pending any further discussion. The resolution would take effect immediately upon its approval and be in effect for all subsequent study abroad programs. A reference to 'unforeseen events' had been removed at the recommendation of university counsel. This resolution will be posted along with purchase information on the Education Abroad website and added to the checklist. Faculty program leaders should already have included this expense in their budgets; faculty members will be informed of the option to purchase additional insurance for themselves but this is not a requirement. Pricing details will be available through the Education Abroad office, which will manage this service. A motion to endorse the resolution was made by Richard Shryock and seconded by Bob Smith; the motion passed unanimously.

- Funding for salaries for summer study abroad

Dr. Dooley noted there are disparities among the colleges regarding funding for summer study abroad programs and asked that college representatives provide him with their respective college's position on salary support for sustained summer programs. Richard Shryock added that any consideration of this initiative should include funding to launch new programs as well as maintain current ones; Dr. Dooley concurred that revenue is usually based on enrollment histories. The Provost is taking a critical look at summer school and Dr. Dooley recommended that a position paper be put together on the matter with the intent to change the understanding of summer programs and restructure the two summer sessions to allow for more creativity. Dr. Shryock added that summer school funding is usually for big lecture classes and any overhaul of the funding should recognize that summer study abroad programs are limited in size by their nature. Dr. Dooley asked college representatives to report back to him with their college's current policy, what they'd like to see in place, and an idea of funding necessary to implement and maintain programs.

3. Education Abroad updates

Eric Miller distributed handouts of the new insurance policy coverage, which are also available online. He mentioned that there had been several summer program issues to deal with, including professors listed on file as leading programs but in reality not traveling with the students, and stressed the need for better collection of information. Another problem arose with exchange students who were unable to register for classes because the Student Exchange Agreements (SEAs) with their universities had not been renewed. Dr. Miller elaborated that modifications had been requested for the SEA but the ensuing process caused a delay in renewal of the agreement. These agreements vary from college to college and can encompass a variety of matters such as housing for students and language requirements. Dr. Miller reported that many applications are being collected for upcoming programs, and numbers are consistent with previous semesters, totaling +/- 1290 for the year. He is doing an analysis of actual graduates studying abroad. It was clarified that Ian Leuschner is now in charge of the MOUs. Dr. De Datta reiterated that there should be a process to track and maintain the SEAs with a checklist and a protocol to be followed to avoid such problems. One person should be responsible to ensure that renewals should be handled in a timely manner and that nothing falls through. Dr. Miller acknowledged that there is a backlog and the processing of applications through admissions can be slow; there are other issues to be addressed such as fee payments. There are currently 70 – 80 exchange students here and more are being encouraged to come this spring. Dr. Dooley requested the creation of a task group to look into the exchange strategy, to include an immediate inventory of SEAs and MOUs and highlight those that are due to expire within the year so strategic decisions can be made accordingly. Dr. Miller will be discussing these agreements with different departments and the topic will be continued as an agenda item. The colleges most affected by this situation are CALS, Engineering, and Business. Nicole Sanderlin, Eric Miller, Guru Ghosh, and Don Back agreed to serve on this group; Dr. Miller will serve as chair and Dr. Ghosh will consult with Mildred Johnson, Director of Admissions, to find a representative from that department to work with the group as well.

4. Priorities for UCIA to address in for 2011 - 2012

- International strategic plan

John Dooley stated that the current ISP is about to expire and will have to be renewed. The Board of Visitors will be addressing the university-wide strategic plan for 2012-2018 during their upcoming retreat. Dr. Ghosh will lead the effort to create the new ISP, but the original ISP has transformed Virginia Tech as an institution and the work will not be so intense. Dr. Dooley will contact individuals who have expressed interest in serving on this committee and will select them based on diversity of thought and experiences in order to engage individuals and hear voices.

- Housing for Exchange students and visiting scholars

John Dooley reported that an earlier potential arrangement in which a donor was interested in providing an apartment complex to house international visitors fell through and no backup plan was in place. The group advocated the need to keep scholars and students separate. One critical issue had been development of a legitimate business plan based on a college timeshare as required by the Foundation. Dr. Dooley asked if there was a strong commitment to make this work. Currently departments are working with realtors to house international visitors. Don Back stressed the need for the most professional type of accommodations possible. Dr. Dooley announced that this could be put on the back burner and that Vet Med has a lease on several units that could be accessed if necessary. Dr. De Datta remarked that the International Support Services should be able to direct international visitors to a list of housing options and inquired about a local bed and breakfast; however, several of these accommodations have shared bathroom facilities and are inappropriate for professionals. There are approximately forty spaces for the 70 – 80 exchange students who come each year; these are allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis. Others will go to the Cranwell International Center for assistance; furnishing apartments also becomes an issue for these students. There are varying types of accommodations for Virginia Tech students going overseas. Dr. Dooley suggested that this topic be included in the matters the SEA task force will address.

- Global competence certificate

John Dooley noted that although many other institutions are implementing this initiative, the undergraduate deans here at Virginia Tech seem less than enthusiastic about this proposal which would encompass four measures of competency: language proficiency, a study abroad experience of one full semester or two summer sessions, a specific number of credit hours certified as integrating internationalization or globalization, and a capstone experience. Dr. Dooley cited the Bridge to Haiti project as an example of a possible project and added that each university sets their own criteria for awarding of certificates. Dr. Dooley explained that pushback from different departments seems to be the argument that there are already majors and minors such as international business or international studies. Dr. De Datta remarked that this concept should be marketed to demonstrate the link to the academic connections. Dr. Simmons recommended that this be addressed in the new ISP. Laurie Brogdon commented that the outcomes mirror some of those being discussed in the university strategic planning sub-committee group, indicating they are salient to other campus organizations and planning groups. She mentioned this possible opportunity to align the university and international strategic planning efforts to look for potential new partnerships. Reed Kennedy suggested that the certificate be marketed as a joint endeavor by colleges along with the relevant minors. Dr. De Datta commented that it is possible to have majors or minors in disciplines such as international studies or foreign languages without having had an education abroad experience. Debra Stoudt noted that some of the same requirements are covered in the CLAHS's new 21st century studies minor; this program will be taking a group to Istanbul, Morocco, and Sri Lanka in the summer of 2012 for an inter-disciplinary experience. Dr. Simmons suggested integrating this with the Honors program as well. This topic will remain on the agenda.

- Area studies

John Dooley reported that efforts will be made to step up the establishment of area studies programs. This subject will be addressed in the new ISP. The last ISP invested heavily in Foreign Languages and Literatures and the creation of areas studies programs will build upon the progress accomplished within that department.

- Travel of faculty and students to countries under a US State Department Warning

Dr. Dooley addressed the issue of guidelines for travel, noting that different universities have different policies. The State Department warnings imply that all countries have the same type and level of danger, and the conservative stance of University Counsel is to disallow all travel to all listed countries. However, there are varying circumstances; Haiti was restricted after the earthquake but numerous faculty, staff, and students traveled there to perform research and relief/recovery work. Dr. Dooley commented that personnel can travel safely with appropriate due diligence; he cited regional issues that have caused Colombia to be placed on this list which are far from the university with which Virginia Tech is partnering. Dr. De Datta agreed that this should be perceived as an alert and not a barring. University Counsel interprets a level of liability would be assumed if travel does take place to one of these locations. Dr. Simmons suggested that the ACC International Council be contacted as well for guidance.

- Study Abroad Faculty Orientation

Eric Miller stated that this used to be offered to faculty to make them aware that there are significant risk management responsibilities involved. A minimum level of training would be required, with further options available. This program will continue to be developed and the council will be kept informed. Dr. Simmons suggested that some of this could also be conducted via online sessions.

5. Monthly updates by colleges/departments/organizations

Reed Kennedy asked if these presentations were of benefit to UCIA members and if they should be continued; the consensus was yes. Dr. Dooley recommended the first one be the CLAHS 21st century studies program. Dr. Stoudt replied that she would try to bring a guest, Dr. Robert Siegle, who is the director of the program. Dr. Dooley suggested that this year's presentations could hone in on specific programs and asked Nicole Sanderlin to present in October on the College of Engineering's rising sophomore study abroad trip.

6. Other items

Dr. De Datta commented that the UCIA had evolved from the University Council on International Programs as mandated by the ISP and changed its focus to support the comprehensive internationalization of the campus. He has enjoyed working with the UCIA and finds it very productive.

Laurie Brogdon stated that Hokies Abroad will be working on a needs assessment to work more closely with their international alumni to collaborate on domestic and international diversity. Dr. Dooley recommended that this be an agenda item for a future meeting.

7. Next meeting

There were no further items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12, from 1:30 – 3:00 at the International Affairs Offices. The schedule of meetings for the 2011 – 2012 academic year is given below.

August 22, 2011	January 23, 2012
September 12, 2011	February 13, 2012
October 10, 2011	March 12, 2012
November 28, 2011	April 9, 2012
December 12, 2011	May 14, 2012