

UCIA Meeting
Monday, August 24, 2015
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
International Affairs Offices, Conference Room A

Present:

Don Back, *Director, Language and Culture Institute*
Cynthia Bonner, *Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs*
David Clubb, *Director, Cranwell International Center*
Andrew Fortin, *Financial Aid Specialist, University Scholarships and Financial Aid*
Guru Ghosh, *Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs*
Monika Gibson, *Director of Student Services, Graduate School*
Carolyn Harris, *Director of Academic Advising, College of Architecture and Urban Studies*
Theresa Johansson, *Director, Global Education Office*
Reed Kennedy, *Director of International Programs, Pamplin College of Business*
Stephanie Lang, *Director of Academic Programs, College of Natural Resources and the Environment*
Vicki Langford, *Director, International Support Services*
Keith Moore, *former Interim Executive Director, OIRE*
Jerzy Nowak, *International Program Coordinator, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*
Ginny Ritenour, *Alumni Chapter Coordinator, Virginia Tech Alumni Association*
Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies and Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*
Eric Vance, *Faculty Senate; Assistant Research Professor and Director of LISA (Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis)*
Samantha Winn, *University Libraries*

Guests:

Rachel Fitzgerald, *Assistant Director for Program Management, Global Education Office*
Randy Penson, *Assistant Director for Global Safety and Risk Management, Global Education Office*
Miriam Rich, *Director of Communications, OIRE*

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

Nicole Sanderlin called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the first UCIA meeting of the 2015 – 2016 academic year. Participants introduced themselves. A motion to accept the minutes of the April 2015 meeting was made by Eric Vance and seconded by Reed Kennedy.

2. Constituent updates

a. Global Education Office

Theresa Johansson reported that among the goals set for the future is a meaningful increase in student participation beyond simply growing numbers. Other goals include generating more international activities on campus and establishing the risk management procedures. Rachel Fitzgerald reported that participation increased 15.1% during the 2014 – 2015 academic year, with 1221 students traveling to 45 different countries. For this fall semester there are 75 inbound exchange students—72 from bilateral exchanges and 3 from ISEP—from 32 different countries. There was an 8% increase in bilateral exchange participation for outbound VT students, indicating that it was beneficial to have had an advisor working to promote those. This trend will be enhanced with more intentional partnerships. Overall 59% of VT students traveling abroad went on short-term faculty-led programs, with 40% participating in longer-term

programs and 1.4% attending for the entire academic year. Rachel will prepare a fact sheet with diversity statistics for the next meeting; the GEO plans to conduct more targeted outreach for diversity and underrepresented groups. The office is transitioning back to the peer advisors model; these students will do the initial basic advising, with the advisor following up. This year the GEO has a Japanese Language Education Assistant Program (LEAP) intern from the Japanese Ministry of Education, following a referral from Don Back. Don was also instrumental in reviving the scholarship program, and Theresa extended her thanks to him and to Bill Pruitt for their efforts to reinstate them. The focus on exchanges will include reviewing and invigorating existing agreements, redefining strategic partnerships, and refining the approach to starting new ones. Theresa distributed guidelines for implementing new partnerships; the requirements are not terribly onerous and will be very helpful to the office. ISEP wants their numbers doubled as well and since that is expensive program to maintain, it would be prudent to make better use of the resource. The GEO also wants to enrich the international environment on campus and will work with David Clubb at the Cranwell International Center to involve international students in those activities. Ten curriculum enhancement grants for improving or creating course content with an international focus were awarded last year in the amounts of \$5000 for new courses and \$3500 for course revisions. It was recommended that the winners be posted on the website. Publicity and outreach for Fulbright programs is also being increased. The GEO has been approved to add two new assistant-level positions during the coming year. Theresa introduced Randy Penson, the newly-hired assistant director for global safety and risk management; once incoming associate vice president for international affairs Karl Markgraf arrives, the Global Travel Oversight Committee (GTOC) will be established. An advisor has not yet been hired so the office will respond to scheduling requests for classroom visits but will not proactively reach out to set these up. In response to an inquiry, it was reported that the majority of Foreign Languages and Literatures majors have studied abroad, but there currently is no major that requires a study abroad experience (although it is required for the international business minor). Such a requirement is more challenging to put in place at a public university but this may be a consideration for a long-term (5 – 10 years) goal. The fall fair will be held on the Drillfield on Wednesday, September 23.

b. OIRED

New executive director Van Crowder was unable to attend the meeting but outgoing interim executive director Keith Moore discussed personnel shifts in the office. The InnovATE program recently hired a director for instructional design, a former Peace Corps volunteer in Mongolia. The Roanoke Times featured an article on Rangaswamy Muniappan, director of the IPM Innovation Lab, and his research on an invasive species attacking tomato crops (http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/humphreys-tomato-terrorism-the-big-fight-against-a-tiny-predator/article_662f4527-c20c-533f-a170-a2e906e12ed1.html)

c. Language and Culture Institute

Don Back reported that the Humphrey Fellows program was a success; the cohort was smaller this year due to funding cuts. The group participated in over 100 meetings on campus. The Iraqi Kurdistan program participants held their capstone here, with 15 participants from 8 different universities in attendance. Another group from King Abdullah University of Science and Technology is enrolled at the LCI in conjunction with the College of Science for a one-year program with the goal of building capacity in research and their professorate. Regular ESL programs are taking place at the Institute's three locations.

d. Cranwell International Center

New director David Clubb announced several transitions in the office, including the revision of several part-time positions to full-time status and the approval of other new full-time positions. There is also a vacancy at the assistant director level since Lyndsy Manz has departed. David stated that this will be an

opportunity to undergo a mini-reorganization of the office. This is the opportunity to have a mini-reorg. Approximately 600 new international undergraduate students arrived, an increase of roughly 42%. Cranwell hosted a session for family members that had about 120 parents and siblings in attendance; they had lots of questions and ideas for recruiting. David will be meeting stakeholders across the university as he familiarizes himself with the Center. He thanked interim director Suzie Baker for the great job she did in managing the Center during the search.

e. Graduate School

Monika Gibson noted that the Graduate School also has experienced significant international growth, with 540 new international students to bring the total to 1840. China and India provide the most students, followed at the graduate level by Iran, Egypt, and South Korea. Altogether the international graduate students come from 90 countries. David Clubb added that there are 240 Chinese undergraduate students alone and that it has become a trend for Chinese to come to the US while in high school and then transfer to colleges and universities.

f. OIA

Guru Ghosh shared ten items:

- The RFP for the Steger Center will soon be released. This will provide funds to develop academically-enhanced programs to be held during the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters. The group from Pamplin that has been attending in the fall is relocating to Prague and the Presidential Global Scholars plan to continue their involvement but the opportunity is open to other groups as well.
- Van Crowder started as the director of OIRED on August 10. His background is with the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Food and Agriculture Organization. Dr. Ghosh thanked Keith Moore for serving as interim.
- A visit to the Shandong University in China went well; they plan to establish a 25,000-student campus and develop a Sino-US research park. Much of this collaboration based on work done by Dr. Rolf Mueller.
- Plans are being made to find ways to transform the student experience abroad, including creating opportunities for divergent cultures in several unique locations such as Ghana.
- OIRED is looking to expand its portfolio of projects; the \$215M project to build a new university is going well, with a return visit by OIRED faculty planned for September and Dr. Vincent Chang appointed as the president of the new institution.
- The VT Engineering Research Center in Chennai continues to present challenges. The trust that had been established to run the Center will be dissolved and a new company headed by VT will take its place.
- Karl Markgraf from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls will start on September 10 as the new associate vice president for international affairs.
- 25K in GS will be used to expand the professorate outside Europe, commencing with a project in Ecuador with the USFQ.
- \$30,000 has been allotted to help with post-earthquake reconstruction in Nepal. Groups who wish to avail themselves of this funding can coordinate through Ian can take advantage of this and coordinate through Ian Leuschner. Devi Gnyawali is the advisor for the Nepalese Student Association.
- The VT KnowledgeWorks competition recently concluded, with representatives from 14 countries on all continents participating. The team from Thailand won and were awarded a \$25,000 prize.

3. Summary of last year's accomplishments

As a springboard for this month's discussion, Nicole Sanderlin summarized some of the accomplishments of the past year: the approval of the voluntary health disclosure form which was implemented for the summer programs; establishment of the residency rule that allows students to study abroad in their senior year; renewal of the by-laws; and facilitating the alumni awards for excellence in international education, outreach, and research.

4. Prioritization of discussion items for coming year

Topics that will be addressed during the 2015 – 2016 academic year were presented:

- Faculty compensation for summer programs could encompass a new model for student fees and a way to incentivize faculty, particularly junior faculty and those in less-competitive colleges. Data that had been collected last year was not particularly helpful and a different manner of compiling this information may be utilized. The IEPC was established to discuss subject such as this that were too complicated to address at the level of the larger group.
- Don Back and Bill Pruitt worked on scholarship situation over the past several months. Reinstatement of the GEO scholarships from program fees has been approved in addition to LCI funds for awards totaling \$100,000 over the next two years; this can be recharged annually and used for program fees as well as tuition. It was suggested that more robust funding be allocated for VT's largest facility outside the US, the Steger Center for International Studies in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland. The Presidential Global Scholars program has \$42,000 designated for need-based financial aid but a looser definition of need is in order; mid-income students cannot afford to travel there. The need for funding undergraduate research was also mentioned; there had once been funding through the office of undergraduate research. Some clarification would be needed as to the criteria for such funding, i.e., whether the program incorporated service learning or research in addition to the academic credit. Students would have to be guided by a faculty member or partner institution such as the National Science Foundation while conducting the research.
- Housing for visitors is also an issue. There was insufficient housing for students this year and 90 undergraduates were moved to the Foxridge apartment complex, with resident advisors onsite. The second and third floors of East Eggleston have been converted back into dormitories, cadets are sleeping three to a room in their barracks, the RAs have roommates, and lounge areas are being used as sleeping facilities. These are not ideal conditions but at least everyone has a bed.
- Addressing items in the most recent strategic plan was also mentioned as a priority. Dr. McNamee had requested an initial waiting period after it had been released. Now several specific questions are being shaped, such as what should the land-grant university of the future look like and how students should be prepared. Another long-range plan will be developed in 2018. Dr. Ghosh shared copies of a visioning exercise currently being enacted. More and more universities are adapting similar strategies. The Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities recently hosted a workshop on engagement and internationalism and how to meld the two concepts together to work more robustly, a model well-suited to the mission of the land-grant university.
- Procedures for creating a new faculty-led study abroad program model were initiated last spring but were halted and are currently on hold in the hopes of synchronizing the effort

with larger university initiatives. Among the aspects that need to be considered are how the two major groups—faculty-led programs and bilateral exchanges—would each be affected, as well as redefining what it means to be a strategic partner.

- Long-range planning for global travel oversight can begin once the GTOC is established.
- Questions were raised during the alumni awards review process last year and the procedures will be examined and possibly revised during the coming year.

No other topics were introduced; Dr. Sanderlin reminded the group that this is a living document that can be revisited throughout the year and revised as necessary.

5. Election of UCIA vice chair

David Clubb volunteered to serve as vice chair for 2015 – 2016. His offer was accepted unanimously.

6. Other items

- Guru Ghosh met with Charles Phlegar, the new vice president for advancement, and suggested he be invited to an upcoming meeting to discuss funding for international programs as well as establishment of an overseas alumni chapter.
- The first meeting to discuss the ‘Global Village’ project is forthcoming. The UCIA is supposed to have a designated representative on the committee and one from the GEO would also likely be appropriate. David Clubb will mention this to Frank Shushok and confirm, and others involved in both groups will fill in until the matter is clarified. Whether or not the current international offices and facilities at Harper Hall will remain there and be expanded will be determined later as the various phases play out. Growth in numbers of students will require additional staffing
- Eric Vance reported that October 20 is World Statistics Day; the LISA will use that day to announce that they now have five statistics labs in their network and are getting closer to achieving their goal of 20 labs in developing countries by 2020.

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

7. Schedule of meetings for 2015-2016 academic year (all meetings to take place from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Conference Room A, International Affairs Offices):

September 28	January 25
October 26	February 29
November 30	March 28
December 14	April 25
	May 9