

UCIA Meeting
Monday, August 25, 2014
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
International Affairs Offices, Conference Room A

Don Back, *Director, Language and Culture Institute*
Mike Bertelsen, *Director, OIRED*
Jackie Bixler, *Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures*
Brian Bolton, *Director, Cranwell International Center*
David Brady, *Director, Export Control and Secure Research Compliance*
Rommelyn Conde, *Assistant Director for Strategic Partnerships and Public Relations, GEO*
Rachel Fitzgerald, *Assistant Director for Program Management, GEO*
Guru Ghosh, *Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs*
Monika Gibson, *Director of Student Services, Graduate School*
Matt Hammond, *University Scholarships and Financial Aid*
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, College of Natural Resources and the Environment*
Ian Leuschner, *Director, International Support Services*
Gary Long, *Associate Dean for Curriculum and Instruction, College of Science*
Jennifer Nardine, *University Libraries*
Jerzy Nowak, *International Programs Coordinator, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*
Miriam Rich, *Director of Communications, OIRED*
Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*
Gerhardt Schurig, *International Programs Strategist*
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies and Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*
Eric Vance, *Assistant Research Professor and Director of LISA (Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis)*

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

Council chair Don Back called the meeting to order and asked all participants to introduce themselves. A motion to approve the minutes of the April 2014 meeting was made by Miriam Rich, seconded by Sonia Hirt, and approved unanimously.

2. Constituent updates

a. IEPC

Items addressed at the most recent IEPC meeting are included in the agenda item ‘Prioritization of discussion items for coming year’ below.

b. Global Education Office

Rachel Fitzgerald distributed a list of who’s who that included roles and responsibilities, adding that the assistant directors can still provide the full range of services during the interim period between directors. Advisor Rebecca Johnson can conduct classroom visits; the peer advisors have been rebranded ‘peer ambassadors’ and have been tasked with greater interaction across campus. The office is working on implementing the name change, which includes transitioning the website. The annual fall fair will take place on September 24 on the Drillfield and faculty program leaders are invited to participate.

Nominations are being accepted for inbound exchange students for the Spring 2015 semester and an updated fact sheet has been distributed to all bilateral partners to facilitate and promote exchanges. Ten study abroad courses will be offered during the Wintermester; there will be a significant recruiting endeavor in the coming weeks now that those have been approved. Rachel reported a 14% decrease overall in participation from the previous year, which she attributed mostly to financial issues such as the new per-credit tuition model and a lack of scholarships, as well as expired exchange agreements with institutions in popular destinations such as the UK and Australia.

c. OIRED

Mike Bertelsen reported that they are still awaiting notification from USAID regarding the RFAs submitted earlier for the SANREM/Sustainable Intensification and IPM Feed the Future Innovation Labs. They have also submitted two proposals for Millennium Challenge Corporation grants. The award for Armenia for the InnovATE project was finalized and two faculty are now in the Democratic Republic of Congo to investigate another project related to mining and natural resource management; a case of Ebola has just been reported there but it was in a different part of the country. The South Sudan project was closed out and the chief of party, Maria Mullei, is now in Tanzania working with Ohio State as partners in a capacity-building project.

d. Language and Culture Institute

Don Back stated that the LCI has been busy during the summer with Fulbright scholars, the Humphrey Fellows, and a capstone project for the Kurdistan program here in Blacksburg. Don thanked all who have been involved with the groups and assisted them during their stay at Virginia Tech. There are now approximately 300 students currently enrolled in the institute's intensive English language programs.

e. Cranwell International Center

Brian Bolton reported that the Center has been busy with the orientation process. On Tuesday, August 19 they checked in 344 new students, a 25% increase from last year which also reflects a proportionate increase in the number of students who apply and enroll. The number of inbound exchange students, however, has decreased from 76 to 30; several factors contributed to the decrease in the number of inbound students, including an imbalance in numbers of students traveling between universities. Brian will be able to provide more statistics regarding country of origin at subsequent meetings. He also noticed that more parents had traveled with their students to get then settled in, with approximately 50 of them in the audience attending the orientation session. The move to Harper Hall has made it easier to refer students to Student Services and the transition between locations has been going well. Cranwell is now fully staffed with three new hires. Guru Ghosh added that he had been interviewed for the Collegiate Times and expressed his dissatisfaction with the relocation of Cranwell. It is next to a laundry facility and the loss of amenities and space are not appropriate. Dr. Ghosh has voiced these concerns to Frank Shushok and Patty Perrillo, stating that he hopes this is a stop-gap measure prior to an expansion, since this is not becoming for the largest public university in the Commonwealth of Virginia. He commended Cranwell's staff for dealing with it in such a positive manner but asserted that the conditions could be better. Several components of Student Affairs including Innovative Technologies will move into the former Cranwell building. Dr. Ghosh added that he had recently been involved with the Knowledge Works program and many of the international alumni remarked that they could not understand the rationale behind the move, which was perceived as not conducive to attracting talent to Virginia Tech.

f. Graduate School

Monika Gibson noted that the numbers of Graduate School international students are similar to those at Cranwell. 1135 students had been admitted, which is higher than the previous year, with a subsequent

decrease in visa documents issued (467) and then once again an increase in actual arrivals. Currently approximately 400 international graduate students have arrived; it is normal to have some late arrivals. The country sending the most students is China (178) with India in second place (110), followed by Iran, South Korea, and Germany. The rest come from 54 different countries. The Graduate School is now beginning to work on their Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) reaccreditation. Some of the late arrivals could have been caused by the SEVIS system having been down, resulting in a delay in issuing visas.

g. Office of Export and Secure Research Compliance

David Brady reported that overall university travel has increased, with 1480 trips by faculty, staff, and students during the past year, as well as an increase in the number of visitors to 783. Regulations have changed for North Korean and Iranian students outside the U.S. enrolled in massive online courses (MOC) depending on the course content. David reminded everyone to consult his office for guidance and up-to-date information.

h. International Support Services

Ian Leuschner announced that Belinda Pauley has joined ISS as the Program Manager and now that department is fully staffed as well. They are working on increasing the cultural participation component as mandated by the U.S. State Department. The J-1 scholars attended a soccer game and will be going to a bluegrass festival and a Halloween event at Dixie Caverns. It was suggested they take scholars to a nearby farm, such as Catawba or Kentland. The Performing Arts Center has agreed to provide unused tickets to events but as yet none have been distributed. There are some funding issues regarding these activities and excursions but those are being resolved. There is a listserv the scholars can join in order to be informed about special events. Ian added that the MOU process is being improved and updated and will also feature a better database; a new template is available on the ISS website.

i. Outreach and International Affairs

Dr. Ghosh reported that in late May a delegation of eighteen traveled to Chennai for the grand opening of the VT, India ICTAS Innovation Center. This was President Steger's last official function. The Center should be fully staffed and operational by Thanksgiving. Dr. Ghosh reported that the Budget Office announced implementation of a fee for international students; he and several individuals, including Vice President for Graduate Education Karen DePauw and student leaders, expressed concerns that this had neither gone through governance nor been vetted by others. The Board of Visitors does not always have to follow all recommendations and the Rector halted progress of this initiative. The Budget Office also wanted to implement OPT and CPT fees which would reduce opportunities for graduate students; this was also done without consulting the university community. OIA has been granted \$120,000 over three years to infuse internationalization into the curriculum; hard funding for the Associate Vice President for International Affairs position was also approved. Dr. Ghosh added that Gerhardt Schurig has been investigating an opportunity to work with a group in Costa Rica to open a new university; a delegation of stakeholders from San José will be visiting campus in October. The Oman project is also moving forward and Virginia Tech has been awarded \$25 million to assist in building a new campus outside of Muscat. Effective October 31 the management of the student Fulbright program will move to the Global Education Office and Betty Watts will serve as the advisor. A Fulbright workshop for faculty, administrators, and students will be held here on campus on September 24 – 25, with a reception the evening of September 24. The Center for European Studies and Architecture was renamed the Steger Center and inaugurated in June, with President Sands and his wife present. The renovations provide additional teaching space and the expansion will increase the Center's capacity to hold conferences and symposium that highlight Virginia Tech's role in research. Daniela Doninelli has sent preliminary cost information, and President

Sands will likely provide input into the selection criteria of topics. Dr. Ghosh concluded his update by reporting that during a recent meeting, President Sands committed resources to the expansion of the GEO staff.

3. Update on GEO director search

Jackie Bixler announced that the search for a new GEO director is still ongoing. The search committee met over the summer and reviewed more than 70 applications and four candidates were invited to campus. Two of those applicants accepted positions at other institutions prior to interviewing and withdrew their candidacy; the remaining two were not favorably evaluated in feedback surveys. The position is therefore still open but a phone interview was conducted with a new applicant who will come to campus September 10-11. A meet and greet will be held for everyone. Interim arrangements for managing the office are clear and functioning well at the moment. The loss of the two candidates may have been a matter of finances; a top candidate declined to participate in a phone interview because of salary concerns and the pool overall was not particularly strong. Qualifications included a masters' degree, experience advising, and international experiences.

4. Review of UCIA bylaws

In the interest of time, the discussion on the by-laws was moved to the next meeting.

5. Prioritization of discussion items for coming year

Several priorities had been highlighted in the IEPC meeting that was held immediately prior to this. Don Back asked several IEPC members to summarize the issues that will be addressed by the committee through task forces and review of peer institution programs, practices, and policies:

- Voluntary health form: rather than providing faculty program leaders with information regarding student medical conditions, the forms instead will only serve to generate an advising session between Services for Students with Disabilities and the student. Faculty will remain unaware of the nature of any issues. Since a decision will already have been made to admit the student, the desired outcome would be for faculty to receive complete information on any student's conditions so they could be managed without disrupting the program. The group will seek to get this modified to provide faculty with the necessary information.
- Financial issues: there is significant disparity among colleges and departments regarding financing particularly of summer programs, which disincentivizes participation overall and travel with larger groups. A more centralized model would eliminate some of these obstacles and a task force could investigate ways to address these challenges. Recruitment for programs at the Steger Center is difficult due to its relative isolation and obscurity, as well as for additional costs charged to the students when they travel away from the facility. Additionally, faculty are often forced to pay group expenses such as hotel bills and theater tickets upfront with personal credit cards. Guru Ghosh has advocated for issuance of a debit card that is linked to an account into which the travel funds have been deposited, and Ken Smith, the Associate Provost for Resource Management and Planning, is aware of the problem. This is a timely moment to address the issue.
- Scholarships: The Controller's Office has reviewed the scholarship issue and has promised to reinstate the program in a modified form. The GEO and the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid will be working together on the scholarships.
- Development officer: Discussions during the summer have highlighted the benefits of a development officer dedicated to international programs.

6. Presentation on College of Engineering international programs

Nicole Sanderlin provided a report on international programs within the College of Engineering. For the last two years they have compiled a databook that focuses on four areas of internationalization within the College: outbound students, curricular offerings/global topics, inbound students, and signature programs. Nationwide it is challenging for engineering students to engage in international programs, with an average of only 3% participation; Virginia Tech has similar rates. There are few faculty-led programs so many of the students travel with other groups, with Europe remaining the most popular destination. Management of the 'Rising Sophomore' program has been transferred to the Engineering Education department, and programs such as the Rolls Royce and Boeing internships continue to be popular. The Office of International Programs will be renamed Global Engineering Engagement and Research (GEER) to reflect the variety of initiatives the office supports. There will be a new Wintermester program offered this year; overall the Wintermester generated \$1.2 million for the university and the overseas programs did not seem to have impacted study abroad travel as a whole. It was also suggested that for disciplines such as Engineering that make study abroad difficult a more concentrated effort be made to 'internationalize with internationals.' Statistics regarding the number of Engineering majors who participants in Project GO, a scholarship program that assists ROTC students in the study of Russian, Chinese, and Arabic, did not seem to be included in the report.

7. Other items

- Reed Kennedy volunteered to present on Pamplin International Programs in October. Dr. Ghosh offered the services of his graduate assistants to work with other college representatives in compiling similar reports; much of this information can be gathered through Studio Abroad.
- Jerzy Nowak will share the newly-designed CALS international program brochure via email.
- Dr. Ghosh encouraged the group to embrace a proactive approach in their endeavors to internationalize the campus by being 'louder, braver, and bolder.' Efforts to move forward will be supported by implementation of the International Strategic Plan which will offer long-term vision and goals, as well as a soon-to-be fully-staffed international affairs unit.

There were no other items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

8. Schedule of meetings for 2014 – 2015 academic year (all meetings to take place from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Conference Room A, International Affairs Offices):

September 22	January 26
October 20	February 23
November 17	March 23
December 15	April 27