

UCIA Meeting
Monday, August 26, 2013
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
International Affairs Office, Meeting Room A

Present:

Linda Bailey, *Assistant Registrar for Transfer*
Mike Bertelsen, *Executive Director, OIRED*
Jackie Bixler, *Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures*
Brian Bolton, *Director, Cranwell International Center*
Cynthia Bonner, *Chief of Staff, Division of Student Affairs*
Andrea Brunais, *Communications Director, Outreach & International Affairs*
Rachel Fitzgerald, *Assistant Director for Program Management, Education Abroad*
Guru Ghosh, *Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs*
Sonia Hirt, *Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Architecture and Urban Studies*
Reed Kennedy, *Director of International Programs, Pamplin College of Business*
Ian Leuschner, *Director, International Support Services*
Tim Long, *Associate Dean for Research and International Outreach, College of Science*
Lyndsy Manz, *Assistant Director, Cranwell International Center*
Jennifer Nardine, *University Libraries*
Jerzy Nowak, *International Programs, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*
Miriam Rich, *Communications Coordinator, OIRED*
Ginny Ritenour, *Alumni Association*
Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*
Jenny Sax, *Director, Education Abroad*
Ken Smith, *Associate Provost for Resource Management and Planning*
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies and Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*
Elankumaran Subbiah, *Associate Professor, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine*

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

Elankumaran Subbiah called the meeting to order and asked participants to introduce themselves. Council members had been instructed to provide a list of issues and concerns that should be addressed during the coming year. Minutes from the May meeting had been distributed to committee members for their review and were approved.

2. Constituent updates and top issues

Jenny Sax briefed the group on the discussion at the most recent International Education Policy Committee, which had met immediately prior to the UCIA. Several topics were addressed, including the need to create exceptions to policies that create disincentives to education abroad and creating a protocol for MOUs.

3. Education Abroad Update

Jenny Sax stated that the forthcoming September newsletter will contain a significant amount of information; therefore, she would provide only a few highlights at today's meeting. She announced new staff members Rachel Fitzgerald (assistant director for program development) and Dana Cone (graduate assistant). Additionally, Daniel Cordova, former director for international programs at the University of San Francisco, Quito has joined the Education Abroad team as a global initiatives research fellow to

assist in developing a Latin America strategy for the university. The office will also begin a search for a new assistant director position for strategic partnerships and public relations. Jenny concluded her report by reminding the group that the Education Abroad fair on the Drillfield will take place on Wednesday, September 18 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and distributed a flyer; she then opened the floor for comments and questions.

- Jackie Bixler asked if the fair flyer could be made into a poster. Jenny replied that it had and provided information on how to obtain it.
- Elankumaran Subbiah asked for updates regarding compliance with Presidential memo 281; Guru Ghosh stated that he could address this topic later.
- Nicole Sanderlin asked departments have been contacted to reserve tables for the fair; Jenny replied that they were emailed using a tracking system to see if the messages have been opened. To date, about 60% of the emails have been opened.
- Sonia Hirt and Debra Stoudt suggested confirmation emails/RSVPs be sent.

4. Cranwell International Center updates

Lyndsy Manz introduced the new director, Brian Bolton, who arrived in time to participate in the orientation sessions. Approximately 290 of the 370 international students who were granted admission have checked in; this week the center will be following up with those from whom they have not heard. During the past week the center hosted several events and programs to welcome new international students, such as hiking trips, trips to Wal-Mart, and soccer matches. The center is also using the MailChimp program to see if students are opening email messages from Cranwell staff. They also began an online pre-arrival orientation set up in Scholar, which includes short courses on registration, transportation, and other issues relevant to newly arrived students. There was also a quiz that required a passing score of 100%. This resulted in a lot of data to analyze but so far there is a significant difference in the number and level of questions people are asking. Additional changes in the future are an impending on-campus move to a first-floor suite in Harper Hall (across from Litton-Reaves) and a center name change. Lyndsy stated that the staff is looking forward to being in a more central location to be able to better serve students.

5. OIRED updates

Mike Bertelsen announced that OIRED has hired an associate director position for the Women and Gender in International Development program; Emily Van Houweling, a specialist in water and gender issues, joined the department last week. Rachael Kennedy is new Peace Corps Volunteer Recruiter; she will be working in the Career Services building. A new project called InnovATE was launched earlier this year; OIRED expects to receive several associate awards soon. An international conference will be held at George Mason University in September and is expected to draw 130-150 attendees. The main topics will be on women in international development, post-conflict institutions in the developing world, and development.

6. Updates from Guru Ghosh

Guru Ghosh offered the following updates:

- The International Faculty Development Program took place earlier this summer in Singapore and Southeast Asia. The group worked on a variety of projects, such as financial literacy and tsunami research. Participants included Robert Weiss and Carla Finkelstein (College of Science); Yang Zhang and Akshay Sharma (CAUS); Alan Abrahams (Pamplin); Deborah Milly (CLAHS); Biswarup Mukhopadhyay, (VBI), Kathy Hosig (VMRCVM); and Paul Knox. Andrea Brunais added that Dr. Finkelstein's breast cancer research will be featured in upcoming VT Daily articles. Dr. Subbiah suggested participants be invited to a future UCIA meeting to share their experiences.

- Over the summer work was done to look at the fee structure for faculty-led Education Abroad trips and ensure that students could receive at least six hours of credit for summer programs. Jenny Sax added that the first Education Abroad brown bag will be a conversation about the impact of new summer and winter models.
- Work has not yet been completed on the Presidential task force on student international travel. Dr. Ghosh gave President Steger a briefing last Friday on the progress thus far. President Steger remains committed to doubling or tripling the amount of students that go abroad. Ian Leuschner asked if there are sufficient resources to accomplish this; Dr. Ghosh replied that President Steger is aware of the needs involved in achieving this goal.
- Work is also continuing on the Strategic Plan for Global Engagement. Dr. Ghosh is assembling a writing team in order to finish it prior to the winter break.
- Gerhardt Schurig, the outgoing Dean of the VMRCVM, will be working with Outreach and International Affairs on a part-time basis beginning October 7, since there currently is no associate vice president for international affairs. He will also be serving as the senior fellow for Latin American initiatives. Joining him in this project is Daniel Cordova, who will work for one year as a research fellow before pursuing a doctoral degree in the History, Science, and Technology program.
- Mrs. Harriet Fulbright will be speaking at Dean's Forum on Global Engagement in during the spring 2014 semester; Robert Gallucci, President of MacArthur Foundation will also be coming to campus in the future to speak at a special event. Dr. Gallucci has waived his speaking fee and travel cost.
- Space in the International Affairs Offices continues to be an issue. Dr. Ghosh is looking at options and will share this information when more definitive solutions are available, hopefully later this fall or early in spring 2014. Reed Kennedy asked if moving the Education Abroad office onto campus would also be part of the discussion.
- A deed of trust was signed for VT, India on May 31. Dr. Ghosh reported that President Steger allocated a significant portion of his time allotted for comments during the recent Board of Visitors to address this project, stating that if all goes well, the VT, India project will be one of the greatest achievements that the university can look back upon with pride.
- Jenny Sax and her husband Ben will be leaving Virginia Tech in June 2014.

7. Other constituent updates, announcements, and points of discussion

- Guru Ghosh announced that a new College of Natural Resources and the Environment is needed to replace Bob Smith.
- Improvements will be made to the programs offered by The World community in Newman Hall, a living community that has not previously had an academic partner. Jackie Bixler mentioned that the university has not offered a language dorm or language floor before; this could be a good opportunity and she is willing to help if there is sufficient interest. Guru Ghosh added that recently there has been talk of creating a global village around the Harper Hall area and asked if Lyndsy Manz could provide information on numbers of international students. Lyndsy stated that this fall there were approximately 85 transfer students and 270 freshmen, a number slightly lower than years past even though more admission offers were sent.
- Cynthia Bonner announced that the Division of Student Affairs will be relocating into the Cranwell building.
- New faculty members Brian Bolton (Director, Cranwell International Center) and Rachel Fitzgerald (Assistant Director for Education Abroad Program Management) introduced themselves. Vice Provost Ken Smith and CAUS Associate Dean for Academic Affairs also

introduced themselves and provided background information about themselves and their positions.

8. Alumni Awards for Excellence in International Education, Outreach, and Research

These awards are presented annually and managed through the UCIA, to include setting the deadlines for nominations in conjunction with the timeline established by the office of the Provost. A committee of reviewers will be selected from UCIA members later in the semester.

9. Additional Items

- Miriam Rich mentioned that it is more difficult to find anything international on the newly-redesigned Virginia Tech website. Dr. Subbiah asked if the UCIA should make a recommendation to the website designers to position “international” more strategically on the screen. Andrea Brunais suggested the recommendation be written as specifically as possible. Dr. Subbiah asked that UCIA members send him their suggestions and ideas (cc Betty Watts).
- Ian Leuschner asked if there were any final language out of the sub-committee on international export control. Ian explained the purpose of this sub-committee. Debra Stoudt asked how this can be monitored as it is difficult to be aware of all the invitations extended by faculty within the colleges. Dr. Ghosh explained that this procedure should be viewed as facilitative, not a policing of visitors. He added that he is occasionally allowed to provide a waiver of the export screening process but hopes that it will not be abused.
- Andrea Brunais distributed the newest OIA publication, ‘Outburst,’ a monthly newsletter.

There were no further items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

10. Schedule of meetings for 2013 – 2014 academic year (all meetings take place on Mondays from 1:30 – 3:00 at the International Affairs Offices, 526 Prices Fork Road)

September 30, 2013

October 28, 2013

November

no meeting

December 9, 2013

(last week of classes)

January 27, 2014

February 24, 2014

March 31, 2014

April 28, 2014

May

no meeting