

UCIA Meeting
Monday, August 27, 2012
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
International Affairs Office, Meeting Room A

Present:

Don Back, *Director, Language and Culture Institute*
Kim Beisecker, *Director, Cranwell International Center*
Mike Bertelsen, *Interim Director, Office of International Research, Education, and Development*
Jacqueline Bixler, *Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures*
Cynthia Bonner, *Chief of Staff and Director of Administration, Student Affairs*
David Brady, *Director, Export Control and Secure Research Compliance*
John Browder, *Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Architecture and Urban Studies*
Guru Ghosh, *Associate Vice President for International Affairs*
Monika Gibson, *Director of Student Services, Graduate School*
Reed Kennedy, *Director of International Programs, Pamplin College of Business*
Marilynn King, *Outreach, Research, and Planning Specialist Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence*
Ian Leuschner, *Director, International Support Services*
Ayuko Miyamoto, *Intern, Cranwell International Center*
Jennifer Nardine, *University Libraries*
Jerry Niles, *Interim Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs*
Ginny Ritenour, *Alumni Association*
Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*
Jenny Quijano Sax, *Interim Director, Education Abroad*
Kevin Shropshire, *Scholarships and Financial Aid*
Bob Smith, *Associate Dean and Professor, College of Natural Resources and Environment*
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies & Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*
Latanya Walker, *Director of Alumni Relations, Office for Diversity and Inclusion*
Danny White, *Director of Student-Athlete Affairs, Athletic Department*

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

UCIA chair Bob Smith called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and asked participants to introduce themselves. A motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting was made by Reed Kennedy, seconded by Ian Leuschner, and passed unanimously.

2. Education Abroad updates

Jenny Sax distributed a fact sheet with the most recent statistics on outbound Virginia Tech students. Among notable trends are increases in the number of students attending programs in China (which rose from ninth to fourth place in choice of destinations), a decrease in the number of faculty-led programs, and an increase in the number of students participating in semester-long programs. Through Studio Abroad the office will begin collecting data on underrepresented students. The College of Engineering has passed CAUS regarding overall numbers of students studying abroad. Jenny can provide more detailed data for anyone interested in specific topics.

Emails are being sent to all past program leaders to invite them to participate in the annual Education Abroad fair held on the Drillfield. This year the event will take place on Wednesday, September 26,

which coincides with Yom Kippur. Jenny apologized for this conflict, but the date had been set well in advance before she assumed leadership of the office. The Education Abroad office can assist with designing and printing up to 200 brochures for programs represented at the fair and asked interested parties to get in touch with their office before September 14. Jenny also announced that the office has set up a new Scholar site which will allow them to collect information protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and a new Education Abroad website should be in place to preview at the next UCIA meeting on September 24. She had hoped to have this ready earlier but the content revision is taking longer than anticipated. Additionally, Jenny anticipates implementation of a paperless application process through Studio Abroad by the end of the semester.

Jenny announced that the Education Abroad office has eight peer advisors, each representing a different college. She mentioned upcoming conferences that may be of interest, including the NAFSA region VIII conference in Alexandria (September 14 – 17, 2012) and the Workshop on International Skills Enhancement (WISE) at Wake Forest University (February 1-2, 2013). The Education Abroad office is coordinating van transportation for the latter event and will offer a \$100 incentive reimbursement to the first five people who sign up.

3. Cranwell International Center updates

Kim Beisecker reported that Cranwell has had a busy year as well as significant staff turnover. She shared copies of a brochure designed in collaboration with CLAHS that described some of the cultural differences and attitudes regarding plagiarism. The Center issued more than 900 immigration documents during the past year and has implemented an enhanced communication program with prospective students to assist in their decision-making process. They have also started Facebook and Twitter accounts. Total numbers of international students are not yet accurate as it is too early in the semester and students are still able to enroll or drop out. This was the first year in which the number of incoming international undergraduates surpassed the number of incoming international graduate students. The additional students also means an increase in their needs, such as resolving issues of transportation and housing (and dealing with an outbreak of chicken pox!), but it also helps create a more energized learning community. Kim added that Cranwell's Global Ambassadors program has expanded and become more formal in nature; volunteers participate in training that includes two full retreats. Kim introduced her intern, Ayuko Miyamoto, and mentioned that the internship program has also expanded, with approximately 50 students being placed in internship opportunities this year. Dr. Smith added that he recently had five international students at his house through the 'Dinners in Homes' program; Kim stated that she hopes to be able to provide this experience to every student.

4. Graduate School international programs updates

Monika Gibson reported that they have a higher number of international graduate students as well and that a higher percentage of applicants are actually enrolling. There are two full-time immigration advisers in the program; the adviser at the northern Virginia campus recently departed so they are working to fill that position. In the spring a SEVIS recertification will take place, which entails providing more than 500 pages of documentation. Monika added that Dean Karen DePauw's 'Global Perspectives' program this summer is in its seventh year and is so successful that graduate deans from across the country asked her to lead a workshop on how to organize their own programs. Dr. DePauw also organized a pilot program to Chile.

5. Role of Internationalization in the New Strategic Plan

Jerry Niles and Guru Ghosh led a discussion on the university's new strategic plan to learn more about the planning process in each individual college as well as how the general statement released is playing

out in each college. This dialogue will continue throughout the fall; preliminary discussions indicate a sense of realization for the necessity of providing a broader global experience for Virginia Tech students. In addition to including programs offered by Education Abroad, this could be expanded to opportunities such as service learning projects, civic engagement outside the classroom, and expansion not only of language learning but of underrepresented languages in which the Foreign Languages and Literatures department will play a critical role.

Among the target areas mentioned in an initial statement drafted by a group led by Paul Knox were:

- A lack of international student recruitment plan. This would involve the Language and Culture Institute and the Admissions Office and would create a long-range plan to operationalize for high-quality international students.
- Undergraduate research opportunities through Education Abroad that could internationalize the research agenda.
- A Virginia Tech presence in the Indian sub-continent to establish a research center and energy-harvesting projects
- Capacity-building and economic development

College representatives remarked on their planning efforts to date. Bob Smith announced that CNRE had held a two-day retreat; study abroad was identified as an important area for strengthening but faculty are already busy and enhancing those resources will require additional people and money. John Browder added that CAUS had finished a draft statement for which Paul Knox provided the framework for validating and supporting programs. Debra Stoudt stated the topics identified as priorities had also been specifically addressed in the CLAHS plan (with the exception of the VT India). Undergraduate research and service learning are topics of particular importance; they will partner with Education Abroad to facilitate more experiences with the ever-growing number of exchange partners. Dr. Stoudt asked how the balance in exchange programs is managed. Jerry Niles replied that a sense of autonomy along with shared responsibility to govern this. Kim Beisecker remarked that although colleges endorse sending Virginia Tech students overseas, they should also be prepared to receive incoming students. She added that she now has students who cannot enroll classes, and asked how international resources could be utilized domestically. Kim stated that an increase in number of students without adequate preparation could result in overwhelming numbers of new students needing assistance that could be perceived as 'not helping my college.' Jenny Sax urged that these issues be thought through carefully in order to not lose partnerships or people. Kim added that every successful international student experience creates an ambassador for Virginia Tech and has a phenomenal effect. Ian Leuschner recommended a careful inventory of exchange programs followed by a strategy to maximize these opportunities. Reed Kennedy pointed out that the 32 business students sent to Riva San Vitale each fall take up a tremendous amount of faculty resources. The UCIA had had discussions regarding funding the complicated funding structure for international programs based on enrollments during previous years. Dr. Niles recommended creating small work groups and including the strategic plan on the UCIA agenda as a standing item to suggest sensible policies. He concurred that missing from the plan were the means of identifying resources to pay for these requirements. Funding is critical to the implementation of international experiences. Mike Bertelsen added that the attitude of each college towards international programs is important too; donors can be fickle, programs can evolve, and promotion of these programs also requires some investments as well. Members of the UCIA understand the barriers involved in implementation of international endeavors. The discussion will be continued in subsequent meetings, with additional input from departments and small working groups.

6. Updates on faculty-led summer programs

Representatives present gave brief updates on international programs that had been conducted in their respective colleges during the summer. Among the new programs were the Camino de Santiago de

Compostela (Spain) led by Annie Hesp (CLAHS) and the 21st Century Studies 'Global Nomads' travel to Morocco, Turkey, and Sri Lanka. More than half the funding for the latter was provided through scholarships. John Browder highlighted a CAUS faculty-led trip to India that focused on issues of female empowerment. Jenny Sax noted that one of the 'Global Nomads' participant was now applying for a Boren Fellowship, and that the office is planning to more closely track internships and service learning projects; she asked that any such information be sent to her.

7. Other items

- Don Back announced that Robert Wilson, Humphrey Fellows coordinator, had left to take a position in Northern Texas University. More than 65 Virginia Tech faculty interacted with the fifteen Humphrey Fellows during their four-month stay in Blacksburg, as well as community members who served as conversation partners. The Language and Culture Institute also hosted a group of 35 Fulbright Scholars.
- Ian Leuschner announced that David Muusz has been hired as the new associate director for International Support Services.
- OIRED has two new faculty members: Kurt Richter, the associate director for technical assistance and special initiatives will work with projects in Senegal and South Sudan. Khaled Hassouna is the associate director for Middle East and North Africa initiatives; he is currently working on a project to establish a new university in Oman.
- David Brady reminded everyone that students from Iran who are transferring disciplines or returning from a visit to their country may be denied visas if they are affiliated with certain projects such as energy.
- Debra Stoudt mentioned collaboration between the Foreign Languages and Literatures department and the ROTC programs to promote scholarship support for critical languages.
- Nicole Sanderlin thanked the Education Abroad office for their assistance in enrolling students in the CISI program, which was found to be useful during the Rising Sophomores trip through Europe earlier in the summer.
- The Language and Culture Institute, Education Abroad Office, Peace Corps, and Phi Beta Delta will co-sponsor a screening of the film 'Crossing Borders' on Wednesday, September 12, at 7 p.m. in Squires Colonial Hall. A discussion led by Guru Ghosh will follow the movie.

8. Schedule for meetings for 2012 – 2013 academic year (all meetings take place on Mondays, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., at the International Affairs Offices):

September 24
October 29
November 19
December 17
January 14
February 11
March 18
April 8
May 13