

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

Don Back, *Director, Language and Culture Institute*
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*
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*
Stephanie Lange, *Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising, College of Natural Resources and the Environment*
Tim Long, *Associate Dean for Research and International Outreach, College of Science*
Jennifer Nardine, *University Libraries*
Miriam Rich, *Communications Coordinator, OIRED*
Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*
Jenny Sax, *Director, Education Abroad*
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 August meeting minutes

Elankumaran Subbiah called the meeting to order and asked attendees to introduce themselves. He noted that minutes from the August meeting had been distributed via email and asked if there were any corrections or comments. Don Back reminded everyone of the 12 concerns that were mentioned. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Ian Leuschner, seconded by Reed Kennedy, and approved unanimously.

2. Constituent updates

a. International Education Policy task force

Ian Leuschner announced that the group had met immediately prior to the UCIA meeting. The group is waiting for confirmation regarding whether or not the requirement that the last 18 and 30 credits for transfer and dual degrees, respectively, be completed in Blacksburg. If this is not a SHEV requirement there is the possibility that it could be waived. The group also reviewed a draft of the voluntary health disclosure form; questions regarding who will have to sign it and who will see it will be addressed by Legal Counsel prior to its implementation. Finally, they will continue to discuss and rework the current MOU protocol.

In response to a question from Tim Long, Jenny reminded the group that the health insurance offers affordable premiums at the rate of +/- \$32 per month.

b. Education Abroad

Jenny Sax reported that the fair on the Drillfield was a success, with between 5000 – 6000 attendees; she thanked all who participated. Michael Herndon, the director of summer and now winter session, was the featured presenter at the September brown bag lunch on September 27. He fielded many questions from program leaders and his handout will be shared via the newsletter. Information regarding the ‘winter-mester’ from the bursars office will soon be available. The cost has been a disincentive to participation and some programs have already been cancelled; but in this pilot year a total of 14 have been approved by Wanda Dean’s office. The process for this procedure entails submitting a proposal to her office; Jenny was unclear whether Dr. Dean reviews the proposals with a committee or whether she makes the decisions on her own. Concerns were expressed whether she has enough knowledge regarding some of the Education Abroad procedures to understand some of the issues such as countries under travel warnings, the 225 checklist, etc. All colleges have an international programs committee that should have engaged in some preliminary review and betting of the proposals. Deadlines for this year’s programs were flexible but next year the June deadline will be strictly adhered to. Jenny continued by announcing that the office has come one step closer to its goal of paperless applications. The office has had the Studio Abroad software since 2006 and has been working to maximize its resources. Phase I—the component of selecting participants—is now complete and they are working to implement Phase II which is managing the post-acceptance documents. Rachel Fitzgerald, the new assistant director for program management, is offering two trainings on October 8 and October 11 (1:00 – 2:30 and 2:30 – 3:45 both days); these will be held in Torgersen 3060 as part of the Faculty Development Institute. The office is also preparing to announce the next round of faculty mini-grants which provides seed money for new programs based on departmental matching funds, as well as the ACC, OIRED, and Phi Beta Delta scholarships for the winter and spring semesters, which range from \$500 - \$4500. Deadline for applications is October 25. Jenny concluded her report by reminding everyone that the newsletter continues to be the best means of sharing updating information and contains links to additional sites.

c. OIRED

Mike Bertelsen reported that the \$6.2M innovATE project awarded from USAID last year kicked off with an international symposium held at George Mason University. There were 146 attendees, 45 of whom were international; participants included representatives from USAID and a delegation of high-level Senegalese university administrators who were visiting Blacksburg, Washington, and the University of Connecticut. The conference was organized by project leaders Tom Hammett and Larry Vaughan and administrative assistant Edin Simms. The award is a ‘hunting license’ to find mission-driven project opportunities, and it is likely that associate awards will soon be given for work in Armenia, Uganda, Honduras, Burma, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

OIRED is also hosting groups of scholars from Senegal and South Sudan who have been attending the Language and Culture Institute to improve their English in order to gain admittance to masters’ programs. Long-term housing continues to be a problem for these groups. Apartment complexes are reluctant to rent to students who have not yet been accepted into programs. OIRED has agreed to lease apartments at Windsor Hills and Foxridge on behalf of the students. Dr. Bertelsen suggested this highlights the need to reopen the discussion on providing long-term housing solutions for international visitors.

d. Language and Culture Institute

Don Back reported several summer programs hosted by the institute, including the University of Science and Technology in China, a Fulbright contingent, and the prestigious Humphrey Fellows. The National Capital Region branch is expanding and moving from Falls Church to Merrifield. Additionally,

they are providing English language instruction at Radford University through a collaborative program, as well as programs with SPIA, the Institute for Policy and Governance, and CALS.

e. Cranwell International Center

Brian Bolton announced that there are 996 international students, almost exactly double the number enrolled in 2010. They have sponsored several recent events such as a tailgate, a 'last days of summer' ice cream and snow cone social, and an overnight wilderness adventure retreat. Four students require corrections to their I-94s and Dr. Bolton will be accompanying them to Charlotte International Airport to fix the problems. The center is preparing for its move to Harper Hall, which he anticipates will take place shortly before the start of the spring semester. Ian Leuschner offered to assist with the I-94s, alleviating the need to drive to Charlotte. In response to a question regarding the dramatic increase in enrollment, Dr. Bolton explained that an increase in wealth in populous countries such as China has facilitated international enrollment, as well as the prestigious reputation of programs such as Engineering. He will provide a breakdown by country of international enrollees at the next meeting.

Several questions were raised regarding the relocation to Harper Hall and its potential impact on programming. Dr. Bolton replied that the configuration will be different but should offer similar facilities, although there will be no kitchen available. It was noted that other international groups within the community used Cranwell for activities such as the Turkish and Chinese Sunday schools. This will no longer be the case, although they are working on alternatives. Don Back stated that space at the LCI is open and could possibly be offered. As a follow-up to his report, Don added that between 20 – 30% of the students at LCI are there on a conditional admissions program; a project tracking their success indicates that they go on to achieve and maintain GPAs averaging 3.0 – 3.3. LCI recruits in a variety of countries, including China, South Korea, Taiwan, Russia, and the Ukraine.

f. Graduate School

Monika Gibson reported that international admissions and the issuance of forms has increased but actual enrollments are down; there were 375 new international students this fall, which is still an overall increase from previous years. There are approximately 190 from China and 110 from India, with sizeable contingents from Iran, Germany, and South Korea. The Graduate School now has a new full-time immigration advisor here in Blacksburg in addition to one at the Northern Virginia Center. The Global Perspectives program that took place this summer is in its ninth year. Monika announced that Janet Rankin is stepping down as associate dean and a search for her replacement is being launched; it is a tenured faculty position and there will be overlap as Dr. Rankin is continuing at the university in other positions.

g. Outreach and International Affairs

Guru Ghosh shared several announcements with the group. The Office of Outreach and International Affairs will be moving by the end of the fall semester to the ground floor of the Gateway Center (corner of Prices Fork and University City Boulevard). International Support Services will likely relocate there as well. The International Faculty Development Program will take place in Ecuador next year; a call for nominations will go out in October and there will be one month to apply, with the deadline after Thanksgiving. The twentieth anniversary celebration of the opening of CESA will take place June 14 – 15 in conjunction with the completion of the expansion and renovation project. Finally, Dr. Ghosh announced that David Brady has had a change in his line of reporting and will now report to Linda Bucy.

3. Alumni award committee nominations

Elankumaran Subbiah asked for volunteers to serve on this committee. There are three awards sponsored by the Alumni Association for excellence in international education, international outreach, and international research; each awardee receives \$2000. Brian Bolton, Ian Leuschner, Jennifer Nardine, and Debra Stoudt agreed to serve.

4. VT website visibility

Miriam Rich had investigated the websites of peer institutions—Michigan State, Ohio State, University of Virginia, and University of Washington—to see how prominently international programs were featured on their websites. There were a range of options, from having to use the search feature to having a ‘global’ tab at the top of the page. Currently the link to ‘international programs’ on the VT website appears at the bottom of the homepage. Miriam suggested that an effort be made to feature international stories in the ‘news’ and ‘life’ sections of the website, which are more predominant. Lynda Bailey expressed concerns that ‘learn’ is at the bottom of the page as academics should be a priority. Ian Leuschner noted that many students now access this information using mobile devices and wondered how long it would take to find an article that does not appear until the bottom of a page. Don Back added that the website is supposed to reflect university strategic interests and internationalization has been identified as a priority. Andrea Brunais proposed making a request to be assigned a quota for the ‘spotlight’ section, which features three rotating stories that focus on innovation, impact, and achievement. Currently the process involves submitting story ideas once a year, with an opportunity to re-submit midway through the year. Andrea offered to create a draft proposal and bring it forward.

5. Summer tuition for Education Abroad

Jerzy Nowak was not present at the meeting so this item was deferred for a future date.

6. Deans forum on global engagement

Glenda Scales presented the latest information on this event, which will be held March 25 - 27, 2014, scheduled to overlap first with Graduate Education week and then International Week. The special guest will be South Sudanese hip-hop artist Emmanuel Jal, a former child soldier, who now works for humanitarian efforts and world peace; he will give two free performances at the new Center for the Performing Arts. Other events include TED talks, an address by Harriet Mayor Fulbright, a poster contest, and a World Café. The activities will seek to engage the community as well; for example, local day care centers and elementary schools will be asked to make pictures about what international means to them, and organizations such as Peaceworks will be invited to participate. The forum has recruited a cadre of undergraduate and graduate student volunteers who will go through proposals, handle marketing (such as creating a Facebook page), and provide crowd control during the events. Gary Kirk of VT Engage has been contacted to help provide resources and Digital Media will record all events free of charge. The call for posters is currently open; the website for the entire event is <http://www.eng.vt.edu/deansforum>.

7. Status on education abroad task force

Guru Ghosh stated that the group continues to meet and have been studying best practices of other institutions; recommendations are emerging and the report is due in late October.

8. Short-term scholars accommodation

This issue had been raised at the August UCIA meeting and Dr. Bertelsen’s update on the problems facing the OIRED-sponsored scholars underscored the necessity of continuing the discussion. This subject had been addressed by the UCIA several years ago and a donor was planning to give a block of apartments to the university for this purpose but ultimately the plans fell through. Short-term housing is

generally not an issue in the summer, but once the fall semester starts students and scholars must move to a hotel and then face relocation during the home football game weekends, plus they prefer to have living space of their own. Don Back commented that the LCI lost a lucrative contract to host a group of scholars from Kyrgyzstan due to its inability to provide the necessary housing. Don and Dr. Bertelsen agreed to work together on a reinvestigation of this issue.

9. Other items

There were no other items to discuss. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Reed Kennedy, seconded by Jennifer Nardine, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:00

10. Schedule for meetings for 2013 – 2014 academic year

(all meetings take place from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. in conference room A, International Affairs Offices)

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