

UCIA Meeting  
Monday, October 20, 2014  
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
International Affairs Offices, Meeting Room A

*Present:*

Don Back, *Director, Language and Culture Institute*  
Jenene Belcher, *Transfer Evaluation Coordinator, Office of the University Registrar*  
Brian Bolton, *Director, Cranwell International Center*  
Cynthia Bonner, *Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs*  
David Brady, *Director, Export Control and Secure Research Compliance*  
Rachel Fitzgerald, *Assistant Director for Program Management, Global Education Office*  
Monika Gibson, *Director of Student Services, Graduate School*  
Hunter Gresham, *Chief of Staff, Division of Student Affairs*  
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*  
Jerzy Nowak, *International Programs, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*  
Kurt Richter, *Associate Director for Technical Assistance and Special Projects, OIRED* 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*  
Elankumaran Subbiah, *Associate Professor, VMRCVM*  
Judy Taylor, *Staff Senate; Office of the Provost*  
Eric Vance, *Faculty Senate; Assistant Research Professor and Director of LISA (Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis)*

*Guests:*

Lindy Cranwell, *Director of International and Graduate Education, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering*  
Michael Herndon, *Director of Summer and Winter Sessions*  
Tim Long, *Professor, Department of Chemistry, College of Science*

**1. Welcome, introductions, and approval of September meeting minutes**

Don Back called the meeting to order and asked participants to introduce themselves. A motion to accept the minutes of the September meeting were made by Eric Vance, seconded by David Brady, and approved unanimously. As this month's agenda had many items, Don asked those providing constituent updates to summarize their reports as briefly as possible.

**2. Constituent updates**

**a. International Education Policy committee**

Ian Leuschner announced that the voluntary health form has been approved for implementation, and Services for Students with Disabilities has cleared the way for relevant information to be shared with faculty program leaders. The group will continue to work on the specifics of this policy.

**b. Global Education Office**

Rachel Fitzgerald reported that the office is working on refining the pre-departure checklist, which will be reviewed by the IEPC before being presented to the UCIA for approval. Mini-grant applications are due November 15; proposals that can leverage matching funds are preferred. A program development training will be held October 28 from 9 – 12 at the Drillfield Room at the Inn; the first half will consist of presentations on program development ideas from successful and experienced faculty program leaders Reed Kennedy, Annie Hesp, and Lori Blanc, with the second half discussing issues such as university policies and financial planning. Another candidate will be on campus November 11 – 13 to interview for the GEO director position, with an open forum Q&A session taking place November 12 from 4 – 5 p.m. at the International Affairs Offices. Rachel is serving as the interim director in the meantime. The job description for the recently-approved risk/security officer position is being developed. Details of all GEO events will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

**c. OIRED**

Kurt Richter announced that IPM Innovation Lab director Muni Muniappan won the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) 2014 award for scientific excellence. The award was presented at the BIFAD annual meeting in Des Moines, Iowa; unbeknownst to many, Miriam Rich had submitted the nomination so the announcement was a huge surprise. The InnovATE project team recently conducted a training for US Agency for International Development (USAID) personnel to help guide policy, USAID expressed interest in the possibility of requesting additional trainings in the future.

**d. Language and Culture Institute**

Don Back reported that the VTLCI continues to work on establishing university partnerships in Kurdistan, partnering with International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) on programs to build capacity in higher education. Don recently returned from Osaka, Japan to visit their Department of Education to discuss a global leadership exchange program that would bring intending university students to campus. He reminded the group that VTLCI guest Gloria Charles from Tanzania is still here on campus to promote and discuss diversity in STEM-related programs and activities.

**e. Cranwell International Center**

Responding to requests last month for this specific information, Brian Bolton reported that the ratio of visas issued by Cranwell compared to students who actually arrive is 40%. The colleges currently without exchange students are the College of Science and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

**f. Graduate School**

Monika Gibson provided a list of student enrollment broken down by country. There are 20 countries with fairly large populations. China and India are the biggest, followed by Iran, South Korea, and Turkey to make up the top five.

**g. OESRC**

David Brady announced that the Export Compliance Training Institute would be hosting a conference in Miami in December 2014.

**h. International Support Services**

Ian Leuschner had nothing to report.

**3. International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)**

Guest Lori Mason, a project director for the IREX Iraq university linkage program, presented on the organization and their mission. The organization works with more than 120 countries to strengthen institutions in several areas, with funding coming mostly from USAID and the Department of State with some private funding as well. Among their projects are professional development initiatives; they promote different types of university partnerships with a relative degree of program flexibility. In the past some opportunities for individual grants had been available but those are winding down as priorities change. Dr. Mason invited council members to network with her regarding specific questions.

#### **4. Comfort Suites**

The Comfort Suites representative scheduled to present did not attend, but Don Back stated she had been invited to discuss low-cost options for visitors. The hotel had recently converted six rooms to suites with kitchenettes which would be ideal for a single visitor or a couple at the cost of about \$60/night. One issue with long-term temporary housing in the past has been whether quoted prices would be honored during football weekends or whether or not guests would even have to vacate the room during that time.

#### **5. Cranwell, the Global Village and a new potential building**

Hunter Gresham, Chief of Staff for Vice President for Student Affairs Patty Perillo, attended the meeting to update the council on the proposed Global Village concept. Dr. Perillo and Dr. Ghosh have been discussing this initiative, the goal of which is to centralize all international services and facilities and move them to the heart of campus from their present locations on the outskirts. This endeavor will require a multi-phase approach that focuses on the central location. Cranwell's move to Harper Hall earlier this year was the first step; the location is not perfect but it is a good start that did not require excessive and comprehensive funding. The primary concern of the initiative is geography and aesthetics can be addressed later with fundraising efforts that will be targeted towards a new facility. President Sands had mentioned these ideas during his installation speech as well.

There are concerns about the amenities lost at Cranwell including meaningful features, such as the international peace garden, that were utilized by the entire community, and its current lack of visibility. Brian Bolton commented that an event took place on Friday in Cranwell's Community Room and it was filled to capacity; furthermore, the English conversation groups are busier than ever. Although the popular kitchen was among the facilities lost, Cranwell seems to be doing well overall and perhaps some of the losses were rather symbolic. Ms. Gresham added that a kitchen is part of the long-term plan but not an immediate priority. In the meantime the lost services may produce potential opportunities for new collaborations, such as using cooking facilities and the atrium in the department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise.

Underlying this project is the concern that U.S. students and internationals are not well integrated. It is not yet clear if the Global Village would include visiting scholars, long- or short-term; likewise, the targeted student resident population, such as foreign language majors or other programs of study, has yet to be determined. Frank Shushok has stated that this year will be used for brainstorming and the concept can grow from there.

A follow-up question was asked in regards to services provided to students from countries in special circumstances, such as students who feel social discomfort because of political conflicts. These situations are handled by Cranwell staff, although no preferential treatment can be given to any student group over another. Concerns were expressed that Cranwell could perhaps be more proactive in those circumstances and target students rather than waiting for them to seek assistance. Cranwell does engage in outreach activities and can also coordinate programs with other facilities such as Cook Counseling Center. It was noted that political situations may not necessarily impact students in obvious

ways; for example, Iran has recently had negative press but is ranked third in the number of international students, indicating a certain level of comfort in the Virginia Tech community.

#### **6. Residency requirement**

Don Back reported that the transfer of credit policy was approved and goes into effect at the start of the Spring 2015 semester. Eighteen hours of the last 45 credits earned may be transferred from overseas institutions but the process still requires approval from the college dean.

#### **7. Presentation on Wintermester programs**

Michael Herndon, director of winter and summer programs, stated that proposals are still being accepted for U.S.-based Wintermester courses but not for overseas trips. Wintermester programs can be overseas, based in Blacksburg, include domestic travel components, or be offered online. Dr. Herndon can offer guidelines and information about prerequisites. All courses run last year generated funds, 70% of which went back to the departments. Despite a late start last year, the Wintermester did very well. One group had planned to go to Senegal this winter but had to drop due to concerns regarding the Ebola outbreak. Questions, comments, or suggestions regarding these programs can be directed to him.

College of Science professor Tim Long then gave a presentation on the Wintermester trip to Europe he had organized last year with the goal of illustrating what possibilities exist for Virginia Tech students and how faculty can create more opportunities for them. The Wintermester presents many options to do this. Dr. Long engaged research connections in Europe to facilitate the experience. In this case, the focus of the program was on nanoscience, or the study of very small things, and the intersection of science and culture and different perspectives on that subject throughout the world. Students traveled to Germany, France, and Switzerland; the program covered several CLEs and had no prerequisites but did include some prep work prior to departure to get all participants to the same level and outcomes were based on global themes. It was a diverse group of 22, and after awarding a \$1000 scholarship to each student the total cost per participant was only \$1700. Much of the cost absorbed by hosting partners, who supported the endeavor by covering expenses related to meals and accommodations. The group was busy from 8 a.m. – 6.m. each day and no one arrived late to the activities; the students even hosted a daily photo contest. Dr. Long thanked Rachel Fitzgerald and the Global Education Office for assistance in putting the program together on relatively short notice and he recommended that faculty program leaders capitalize on their overseas networks to enhance programs for students.

#### **8. Update on Pamplin international programs**

Reed Kennedy gave updates on programs offered through Pamplin, including a new semester-long first year experience in Barcelona. He noted that there are some programs organized by leaders who do not travel with the students as they prefer to stay in the classrooms and reach more students but still want to offer opportunities for those who want to travel. They are experiencing growth for the Wintermester this year but overall totals have decreased, particularly summer programs. Pamplin has a goal that at least 60% of their faculty be involved in some capacity in international activities; he was able to review their faculty activity reports to collect this information and learned that the percentage has reached as high as 73%. Participation in international internships are growing; students are able to engage in these in areas related to their majors. Reed noted that few of these internships are paid and students sometimes have to pay to participate, including costs for their visas and their room and board that run as high as \$6000 - \$8000 per participant. Questions about international programs were raised at a recent Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA) meeting; at a previous UCIA meeting several years ago CAUS had reported on their international programs using data gathered from faculty activity reports and Reed had used this model for collecting his information.

**9. Bylaws update**

Debra Stoudt had incorporated all corrections and suggestions send so far. Most edits thus far were related to consistency of language and updating membership information. She will distribute the revisions prior to the November meeting for review and a final vote in December, as per the bylaws which state that amendments must be discussed at two meetings.

**10. Other items**

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

**11. 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):

November 17	February 23
December 15	March 30
January 26	April 27