

UCIA Meeting
Monday, October 26, 2015
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
International Affairs Offices, Conference Room A

David Brady, *Director, Office of Export and Secure Research Compliance*
David Clubb, *Director, Cranwell International Center*
Guru Ghosh, *Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs*
Theresa Johansson, *Director, Global Education Office*
Reed Kennedy, *Director of International Programs, Pamplin College of Business*
Stephanie Lang, *Director of Academic Programs, College of Natural Resources and the Environment*
Vicki Langford, *Registrar's Office*
Ian Leuschner, *Director, International Support Services*
Karl Markgraf, *Associate Vice President for International Affairs*
Wendy Meehan, *University Scholarships and Financial Aid*
Ginny Ritenour, *Alumni Chapter Coordinator, Virginia Tech Alumni Association*
Nicole Sanderlin, *Director of International Programs, College of Engineering*
Gerhard Schurig, *Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine*
Tanushri Shankar, *Student Government Association*
Pete Smith, *Graduate Student Association*
Debra Stoudt, *Associate Dean for Academic Policies and Procedures, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences*
Ayanna Thompson, *Assistant Academic Advisor, College of Architecture and Urban Studies*
Eric Vance, *Faculty Senate; Assistant Research Professor and Director of LISA (Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis)*
Larry Vaughan, *Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIREd)*
Samantha Winn, *University Libraries*

Guests:

Andrea Brunais, *Communications Director, Outreach and International Affairs*
Randy Penson, *Assistant Director for Global Safety and Risk Management*

1. Welcome, introductions, and approval of September minutes

Nicole Sanderlin called the meeting to order and asked participants to introduce themselves. A motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting was made by Ian Leuschner, seconded by Theresa Johansson, and approved unanimously.

2. Constituent reports

a. International Support Services

Ian Leuschner reminded the group that the RFP for service-learning opportunities in post-earthquake Nepal is ready and been sent out to council members earlier in the month. The total amount of the award is \$30,000 with funding provided by Outreach and International Affairs and the Language and Culture Institute. The deadline for applications is January 19 for projects and travel taking place during the summer. Possible candidates include student groups with faculty advisers such as Engineers Without Borders. Proposals can identify an NGO or other reputable organization with which they can work to serve as a conduit for community funding; needs and expenditures must be identified prior to leaving. A portion can also be used to pay for travel but direct donations to an NGO are prohibited. The program does not have to be credit-

bearing and applicants can go through VT-Engage to assist with the risk management and safety aspects. Faculty with questions can contact Ian and/or Karl Markgraf. Some of these details will be discussed with the group that is chosen after they have been notified of their selection.

Ian reported that the international tailgate co-sponsored by ISS, Cranwell, the Global Education Office, and the Language and Culture Institute on October 9 was a success; they had more than 200 participants and ran out of food. This event will likely be repeated in the future. Ian added that there will be some changes to the English language assessment required for the J-1 applicants. They had been conducting Skype interviews with LCI personnel after attempting to contract this service with Berlitz, but the option became so popular that LCI will have to charge \$100/per person for this service. There are several possibilities to satisfy this requirement: a test score such as TOEFL, a national exemption for English-speaking countries, or having received a degree or courses delivered in English. The personal attestation has not been a reliable means of assuring proficiency. Finally, ISS is dealing with insurance issues as well; the J-1s have been under- or uninsured, allowing coverage to lapse, or opting out of coverage for conditions such as pregnancy and sports injuries but then finding themselves needing coverage for those same circumstances. ISS is now going to make this mandatory with the possibility of a waiver just as they do with students, and work with the Office of Risk Management to implement this procedure.

b. OESRC

David Brady discussed the issue of dual use research and the number of researchers currently working with pathogens. Certain biological agents can be modified to be used for harmful purposes so there are restrictions on who has access to these; those guidelines can affect labs and international students. Likewise, new guidelines are being established regarding energy activities related to atomic and nuclear research in line with standards for fundamental research. The National Institute for Standards and Technology establishes such requirements which includes a stringent list of 109 controls.

c. OIRED

Larry Vaughan reported that OIRED is working on a concept note for a Gates/DFID (Department for International Development, the UK equivalent of USAID) award in an attempt to branch out from reliance on USAID-funded projects. They are working with the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi and McGill University for this project, which will study the nutritional impact of animal source food products. Tom Archibald has assumed leadership of the ERA project in Senegal; this is a mutually beneficial move since the project is wrapping up and he has a background in capacity building and monitoring and evaluation. The ERA project established 4H in Senegal as a youth initiative, the first in French-speaking West Africa. Guru Ghosh commended Dr. Vaughan for stepping in as the Chief of Party for the project during a difficult time; Dr. Vaughan's background as a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal and his knowledge of French and Wolof helped salvage the project and resurrect the relationship with USAID. Dr. Ghosh was able to visit Senegal for ten days with Dr. Vaughan serving as his guide. Dr. Vaughan will now direct the InnovATE project.

d. Cranwell International Center

David Clubb announced that he had just returned from Germany where he was attending a two-week Fulbright program for administrators. Cranwell is hiring for three positions: an office manager and two assistant directors. Cranwell is acquiring batch software that will allow students to interface with Homeland Security; this resource can also be used by ISS and the Graduate School. David was able to obtain funding for the first three years of licensing for this product. Cranwell is recruiting participants for its Global Ambassadors program. The Center recently held its annual Appalachian overnight trip to Wilderness Adventure at Eagle Landing, with 50 students attending. Participants engaged in team-building activities and paid \$75 each but the program was heavily subsidized. David reported that they are also planning an inaugural commencement

event for international students to celebrate their achievements, similar to some of the other cultural graduation activities already taking place. David noted that there is quite a bit of attention paid to diversity here on campus but not quite so much to inclusion and he would like to see that improve.

e. Global Education Office

Theresa Johansson reported that it is a busy time for the GEO, with exchange applications in process along with an apparent increase in interest in those programs. The walk-in hours are popular and the new advisor, Marielle Wijnands, has started. The faculty program leader training has been revamped and approximately 50 leaders attended the recent training sessions, which will be held again in the spring. The Global Travel Oversight Committee is now meeting every other week; Theresa remarked that it is a challenge to get through the agenda because of the backlog of work but the discussions are productive. The office is also hiring for two new positions; the assistant director for partnerships and affiliations has already been posted and the second, a faculty support associate will open soon. The call for [Curriculum Globalization Grants](#) will be announced shortly, with the review committee scheduled to meet on November 19 and a recognition ceremony planned for the recent awardees. Last year's application cycle generated approximately 40 submissions and winners were awarded \$5,000 for new courses and \$3,500 for revised courses; this year there is about \$40,000 to be distributed. Theresa is meeting with personnel in the financial aid and registrar's office, and discussing subjects such as transfer of credits and uniformity on advising.

3. OESRC Updates on Cuba

David Brady updated the group on regulations concerning Cuba. Due to the reestablishing of diplomatic relations, there is now more latitude in research and academic activities that can take place in Cuba without a special license. Most of the activities which Virginia Tech faculty are proposing fall under the general license, but they still have to conform to those guidelines and report all activities; this means no tourism activities whatsoever, with fines imposed even for an inadvertent violation of policies. Activities requiring specific licenses take time to receive approval, which can serve as a polite means of denying permission. All records must be kept for five years, including a log of financial transactions. Credit cards can be used on the island and it is permissible to purchase \$400 worth of cigars and food; if frequent travel becomes more common and there is interest in setting up a bank account, it was noted that this is a very complicated process since there are currently no US financial institutions on the island and advice from the controller's office and university legal counsel should be sought. Among VT faculty, Dr. Luciak and Dr. Scarpaci have prior experience conducting research and/or traveling to Cuba. The GTOC will be involved in reviewing any forthcoming travel to Cuba, and the special license would be needed for any service-learning activities.

4. Follow up on Advancement memo

Nicole Sanderlin reminded the group that Charlie Phlegar, the new vice president for advancement, attended the UCIA meeting in September to discuss the new advancement division and solicit feedback for priorities. She is compiling a list and will review those suggestions with Karl Markgraf to create a memo listing those recommendations. Council members can continue sending their ideas to Dr. Sanderlin. Matt Winston, a VT alum who was formerly the assistant to the president of the University of Georgia, was recently hired as Mr. Phlegar's assistant and could be invited to the UCIA as a follow up. Ginny Ritenour had distributed a graphic of alumni in different countries but it was unclear as to whether those were international students or American students who relocated overseas. Maintaining and updating these records is a huge task and there are certain considerations when coding their status in Banner.

5. Alumni Awards for International Excellence

Nicole Sanderlin reminded the group that the awards process is based on a timeline issued by the Provost's office and the call for nominations usually goes out in late October/early November, with the deadline for

submissions in late January and the decisions forwarded to the special events coordinator by early March. Serving on the review committee does not require a huge time commitment. Larry Vaughan volunteered to chair this year's committee, with Ian Leuschner, Theresa Johansson, and Samantha Winn also agreeing to serve. Additionally, an awardee from the previous year will be asked to help select this year's winners.

6. International Week

David Clubb asked what Virginia Tech does to celebrate International Education Week, a US State Department initiative. This year it is scheduled for November 16 – 20. The celebration conflicts with the APLU annual meeting so many high-level administrators are gone, and students are either trying to finish up projects before the Thanksgiving break or taking off early to extend their vacation. The Graduate School used to organize events for this but has not done anything recently. David noted that there is a model UN program that hosts meetings in DC, New York, Atlanta; it does not appear to be very active here but is a project that could be suitable and adapted for International Education Week.

7. Other items

- Betty Watts gave a report on this year's student Fulbright candidates. The application cycle closed October 13. A total of 24 VT students applied and 34 faculty participated in interviews. Notifications for recommendations will be made in January.
- Guru Gosh recalled Jerzy Nowak's comments regarding the University of Tennessee students who voted to make voluntary contributions to a study abroad scholarship fund and added that students in Texas also agreed to levy a globalization fee that created scholarships students could compete for. Dr. Ghosh remarked that for a donation matching the price of a McDonald's 'Happy Meal' (\$3.99), Virginia Tech could also raise \$200,000 for scholarships. He asked if there was any interest in doing that and challenged the Student Government Association to take on this discussion.
- The NAFSA: Association of International Educations regional conference will take place in Alexandria November 11-13, with several offices from Virginia Tech sending personnel as well as presenting.
- David Clubb asked if the Corps of Cadets was involved with the UCIA in any way. They are currently represented by the GEO as well as Foreign Languages and Literatures through their participation in Project GO.
- World Statistics Day was celebrated on October 20. LISA 2020 hosted a special event with the theme "Envisioning the 21st Century Global Land Grant University to Build Research Capacity in Developing Countries." Karl Markgraf made the closing remarks. Eric Vance stated that the goal is to have 20 statistics labs in different developing countries by the year 2020.

There was nothing further to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

8. Schedule of meetings for 2015-2016 academic year (all meetings to take place from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Conference Room A, International Affairs Offices):

November 30
December 14
January 25
February 29
March 28
April 25
May 9