

UCIA Meeting
Monday, December 15, 2014
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
International Affairs Offices, Meeting Room A

Present:

Don Back, *Director, Language and Culture Institute*
Mike Bertelsen, *outgoing Executive Director, OIRED*
Jacqueline Bixler, *Chair, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures*
David Brady, *Director, Export Control and Secure Research Compliance*
Rachel Fitzgerald, *Assistant Director for Program Management, Global Education Office*
Andrew Fortin, *Financial Aid Specialist, University Scholarships and Financial Aid*
Guru Ghosh, *Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs*
Monika Gibson, *Director of Student Services, Graduate School*
Carolyn Harris, *Director of Academic Advising, 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*
Lyndsy Manz, *Assistant Director, Cranwell International Center*
Maggie Huiying Mao, *Graduate Student Assembly*
Keith Moore, *Interim Executive Director, OIRED*
Jennifer Nardine, *University Libraries*
Jerzy Nowak, *International Programs, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences*
Miriam Rich, *Communications Coordinator, OIRED*
Ginny Ritenour, *Alumni Chapter Coordinator, Virginia Tech Alumni Association*
Gerhardt Schurig, *International Programs Strategist*
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)*

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

Don Back called the meeting to order and asked participants to introduce themselves. A motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting was made by Jackie Bixler, seconded by Eric Vance and approved unanimously.

Don requested two changes to the agenda: to move the transitions topic ahead of the constituent updates, and to postpone the Eduroam discussion for a future meeting. A motion to accept these changes was made by Reed Kennedy, seconded by Jennifer Nardine, and approved unanimously.

2. Transitions

Guru Ghosh announced that this is the last UCIA meeting for outgoing OIRED executive director Mike Bertelsen and Keith Moore will serve as the interim executive director of that organization. An announcement regarding the new director of the GEO is forthcoming. The search for the associate vice president for International Affairs is about to launch and the search for the associate director for global engagement at VT-Engage is already underway. The GEO risk management position search will soon begin as well. David Brady recommended including representatives from the Office of Export Control and Secure Research Compliance or someone from the Office of Research as well as someone from the

controller's office be included on the search committee for that position, since those offices can provide valuable insight into the needs of the job. Names for that search committee will be submitted in early 2015.

3. Constituent updates

a. International Education Policy committee

Rachel Fitzgerald summarized the discussion that focused on program funding infrastructure and whether there was a preference for the wintermester model or a no-tuition model, with an overarching goal of making programs affordable while incentivizing faculty participation. Among the points raised was charging in-state tuition for out-of-state students for summer and winter programs to encourage their participation.

b. Global Education

Rachel Fitzgerald reported that the office is preparing for the Wintermester, with 215 students participating in 15 programs taking place in a wide array of destinations. Additionally, there will be 190 students enrolled in semester-long programs in the spring. Twelve faculty attended the pre-departure orientation which focused on health, safety, and risk management, and the voluntary health form was used for Wintermester participants. The GEO newsletter will be sent out this week with details about these events as well as upcoming activities. Although in a recent speech President Sands mentioned increasing the number of study abroad participants, the GEO does not have any particular goals regarding this objective but rather seeks to provide other services such as adequately preparing faculty to lead programs.

c. OIRED

Mike Bertelsen reiterated that Keith Moore will serve as interim executive director. The office is still unable to officially announce the awarding of the IPM Feed the Future Innovation Lab grant; meanwhile, they are working on new proposals as well as awaiting responses on several others that have been submitted. OIRED will be hosting a kick-off event for the InnovATE project in Armenia.

d. Language and Culture Institute

Don Back stated that the VTLCI is wrapping up the semester and also working on some proposals for next year. This month's Outbursts publication has information about the Iraqi Kurdistan program at VTLCI; Don distributed copies to council members.

e. Cranwell International Center

Lyndsy Manz announced that the first Pie Day held in the new facility was a success, with 250 in attendance. She thanked all who donated pies and/or served as facilitators. The Center held a series of focus groups to get feedback on the English language partners program; most participants in the program are spouses of students but the program is open to all. The Center will follow up with better marketing and more advertising, particularly at the start of the semester. There will be approximately 58 students taking part in the spring orientation; this semester the immigration component of the orientation will be conducted online in Scholar. The Center has also hired a new faculty member to assist with issues unfamiliar to international students such as plagiarism, group work, and how to write a research paper; these problems are not just related to language barriers but are cultural as well and this proactive approach may help serve to diffuse difficult situations. Non-credit sessions addressing these subjects will start in the spring; they will be populated through referrals from professors as well as from lists of students on academic probation. The instructor will be Beth Parker, who has been a participant in the conversation programs.

Follow-up questions were asked about the online orientation. It will consist of a video and PowerPoint presentations followed by quizzes to assess how well the information was absorbed; students must watch all content and will not be able to simply fast-forward to the quiz section. The US Citizen and Immigration Services guidelines permit this type of orientation; the document check-in will still be conducted face-to-face. Cranwell personnel had noticed a high level of disengagement during the large group formats previously held. The online orientation sessions also have the advantage of allowing students to access the videos and presentations whenever they need to review information.

f. Graduate School

Monika Gibson added that the Graduate School will also implement an online orientation. They have hired a new immigration advisor to replace longtime employee Ruth Athanson; however, she will not be able to start until January 5. The new advisor has had significant experience with international students but less so in regards to advising, so the online sessions will be beneficial.

g. OIA

Guru Ghosh announced that he is soliciting ideas for speakers as the university seeks to expand its research for greater global collaboration. He noted that to further this aim there will also be some funding available in the coming year for entities such as OIRED, LCI, CPE, and COTA to develop and pursue economic development opportunities.

Dr. Ghosh provided a brief update on the Oman university project. He will be meeting with President Sands to get some advice and input, including the budget and branding the partnership. Dr. Ghosh added that he has no new information on the Global Village.

4. By-laws revisions

Debra Stoudt highlighted the most recent changes that had been sent to the group to review. A few additional edits were suggested. These will be incorporated and the by-laws were approved unanimously.

5. International Spouse/Partner Support Program

Don Back reported that as part of the President's diversity initiative, the VTLCI will open English language courses to partners and spouses of graduate students at a much reduced cost. One of the greatest sources of anxiety for graduate students is unhappy spouses; this measure will help them acculturate, improve their skills, and give them opportunities to further their own education. The cost for faculty family members is \$50 per course, plus books, and they are eligible to go through the entire program.

6. LISA 2020

Eric Vance began his presentation on the Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis (LISA) with a personal story illustrating how statistics have international significance and everyday relevance. The goal of the LISA 2020 program is to train statisticians from developing countries to become collaborative statisticians who will help enable and accelerate research to solve real-world problems and build a network of 20 statistical collaboration laboratories by 2020. The program is creating collaborations and fostering a network of mentoring, rather than simply answering questions; they received a Google grant to fund the year-long training of a statistician from Nigeria and a second grant to fund a statistics graduate student spending 6 months in Nigeria to help grow and sustain new stat labs.

7. VT Global Network

Don Back introduced the topic of the VT Global Network, a project that will offer faculty the opportunity to create a type of LinkedIn profile and build a searchable network of people, projects, skills, and experiences. There is currently a database of projects maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Research but it is not updated regularly and does not include a field for international expertise. This idea was discussed at the COIA to determine how faculty could proactively participate and provide updates in a context other than a database. This can also be used to track international sponsorship of research. The VT Navigate resource, which was created by two graduate students, is still active but also requires intensive maintenance. Currently there is also the International Support Services database for unfunded projects supported through MOUs, and the OESRC can search for projects through the Office of Sponsored Programs although that information is not accessible to the public. The new online travel and expense management system will help create reports that in turn will be able to help provide better duty of care; for example, when the earthquake struck Haiti 2010 several faculty were able to be successfully evacuated because their information and travel plans had been shared. The new network will be able to track visiting scholars in addition to students and visitors on business, including those currently visiting as well as those who have been here in the past, as well as the destination and nature of faculty business travel. Linking this through the controller's office will make it more comprehensive.

8. Alumni awards reminder

Betty Watts reminded the group that nominations for the alumni awards for excellence in international education, outreach, and research are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, January 26. Submissions can be emailed, sent via campus mail, or hand-carried.

9. Other items

- Mary Lee Wolfe is looking for a representative from the Gates Foundation to serve as a keynote speaker for an upcoming event and would appreciate this request being put out through everyone's professional networks.
- Jackie Bixler asked for suggestions for language courses to be offered through the 4VA program. Currently there is instruction in Korean, Farsi, Swahili, Portuguese, and Turkish.
- David Brady announced that he will be getting a report from the Ebola Working Group and will update the UCIA at a future meeting.

10. 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):

January 26
February 23
March 23
April 27