

International Education Council
Meeting Minutes
September 3rd, 2021
Virtual Meeting MS Teams

Members present: Ms. Jenny Chi, Dr. Vanesa Landrus, Dr. Mei-Ling Li, Dr. David Melton, Ms. Olivia Triplett, Dr. David Viertel, Dr. Vernon Woodley

Members absent: Dr. Kristin Brown, Dr. Nichole Hugo

Ex-officio present: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Dr. Michael Gillespie, Dr. Tanya Willard

Ex-officio absent: Mr. Mutombo Andy Kabasele, Dr. Amy Rosenstein, Ms. Sarah Schmidt

Visitors present: Ms. Lutete Celina Carlos, Dr. Will Porter, Mr. Benjamin Rienbolt, Ms. Krishna Thomas

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

At 9:01 Dr. Mei Ling Li called the meeting to order.

1. Dr. Ryan Hendrickson welcomed all the new members to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves and shared which departments they're from.
2. He welcomed Dr. David Viertel who will be replacing Dr. Ahmed Abou-Zaid this academic year. Dr. Abou-Zaid also resigned his position as Vice Chair on the Council so the vacancy needs to be filled for this year. Dr. Mei-Ling Li nominated Dr. Vernon Woodley to be the Vice Chair and he accepted. Ms. Olivia Triplett seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved.
3. Dean Hendrickson explained to the Council that there are two subcommittees that members can join. There is the Study Abroad committee which reviews course proposals and scholarships for students who are planning to study abroad. The other committee is the international scholarship committee. They also review scholarships for international students and scholars. Committee members will be elected at the next meeting so he asked that they think about which committee they might want to serve on.

II. Approval of Minutes

1. Dr. Li presented the minutes from the previous meeting (April 30, 2021). After review Dr. Vernon Woodley motioned to approve the last meeting's minutes. Ms. Olivia Triplett seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with Dr. David Viertel abstaining.

III. Reports

1. International Students and Scholars and Study Abroad: Ms. Krishna Thomas

- a. Ms. Krishna Thomas provided an update on the international students fall enrollment numbers.

She provided detailed graphs showing the current enrollment numbers compared to the last five years. She also showed the Council a breakdown of graduate vs undergraduate, the most popular majors, the number of countries currently represented, and the overall makeup of the current students.

- b.** She also gave an update on the International Student Orientation program for the fall semester. They had multiple small group meetings and 183 new international students were able to attend.
- c.** She also gave an update of various activities so far this semester. Two local churches provided meals to the students during welcome sessions and they were able to take shopping trips to Walmart. They also created a supplemental orientation program on D2L that has been popular. They will most likely hold one more orientation later in the semester.
- d.** She let the Council know that the forecast for Spring 2022 is looking very good. There are many that are already admitted, and some are deferrals from this semester. They are planning the orientation for January for the new arrivals.
- e.** Mr. Ben Rienbolt gave additional details about the current and upcoming activities. They have been working to make the new students' integration to EIU as smooth as possible. He said the two church meals were well attended by both international students and members of the community. OISS has created a What's App group to help students connect. They also had a bowling night which the students enjoyed. There will be elections for AIS soon and he will send out an electronic ballot for the students to vote. He also showed some of the upcoming and planned activities in the next few months.
- f.** Ms. Krishna Thomas gave the Council an update on the embassy situation. She explained that many embassies are still limited on the appointments they are accepting. Some embassies take thirty days for an appointment and others are only processing emergency visas. OISS is recommending to students if there is a delay to defer their admission if necessary and get their I-20s and watch for more information.

Dr. Hendrickson noted how many more applications the office has been processing recently compared to the past and he thanked the OISS staff for all their hard work.

2. Study Abroad: Ms. Celina Carlos

- a.** Dean Hendrickson provided an update on Study Abroad. He said that they approved one student for a direct enroll program to France. They will continue to support students who are interested in direct enroll programs in the future. Faculty led programs at EIU are still on hold because of the pandemic, but they hope to start them again in the summer of 2022.
- b.** Ms. Carlos let the Council know about the graduate students that are helping her in the office this year. She also gave details about upcoming program and scholarship deadlines. She noted that the Spring Break study abroad programs are canceled, but they are hoping the summer programs will be able to run as normal, but she noted that restrictions may change by then because of COVID. They will still work with third party

and direct enroll programs for any students who want to take advantage of opportunities abroad.

- c. Ms. Carlos also gave a list of the upcoming activities. She noted that the Study Abroad Fair will be face to face this year. They won't be able to have as many third party programs at the fair this year, but they have invited numerous other departments to provide information for students with questions. They also hope to spotlight the scholarship opportunities since that is many times a big concern for students. The fair will be September 15th from 10:30 – 3:30. She also discussed the numerous promotional activities that are planned for this semester. Also, the Study Abroad Club has been active and it planning many different activities for students.

Dr. Vanesa Landrus asked about those who had previously had a Spring Break program planned for 2022. Ms. Carlos said they have been moved to 2023. Dr. Landrus also noted that there would be a kickoff of Latino Heritage Month on September 15 (the same day as the Study Abroad Fair) and they would be giving out free tacos.

d. Dean's report: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson

1. Dean Hendrickson introduced Dr. Will Porter who was there to discuss his experiences with his virtual Study Abroad program this summer with a concentration on Chilean Music. It was a four-week course with lectures and live streams of dance lessons and music performances. Dr. Porter felt that the biggest benefit was that students who might not have been able to go on a normal study abroad trip were able to take advantage of the virtual study abroad class. He noted it's not the same as the typical study abroad program but it does provide students with an international experience that they wouldn't normally get. He felt it was so successful that he's offering the program again in the summer of 2022. The cost was low and he was able to pay the participants a stipend since he didn't have to pay for the usual costs associated with a regular program (hotels, flights, museums, etc.).

2. Dean Hendrickson updated the Council on the process to approve virtual Study Abroad programs. Last time IEC first reviewed and approved the proposal and then CAA and CGS also reviewed and approved the program. He would like to continue this process in the future. At the next meeting he will propose the details listed above and request a vote by the Council.

Dr. Li moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 am.

Minutes submitted by Mary Mattingly