

**International Education Council
Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2019
Blair Hall Third Floor Conference 3108**

Members present: Dr. Rick Anderson, Dr. Kristin Brown, Dr. Nichole Hugo, Dr. Vanesa Landrus, Dr. Jinhee Lee, Ms. Bailey Mitchell

Members absent: Dr. Julie Dietz, Ms. Sarah Dodoo, Dr. Mei-Ling Li, Dr. Catherine Polydore, Dr. Tina Wang

Ex-officio present: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Mr. Mutombo Andy Kabasele, Dr. Barry Kronenfeld, Dr. Tanya Willard

Ex-officio absent: Ms. Sara Schmidt, Ms. Stephanie Woodley

Visitors present: Ms. Bethanny Cougill, Ms. Lauren Schuberth, Ms. Emily Tooy

I. Approval of Minutes

At 9:04 am Dr. Nichole Hugo called the meeting to order.

Dr. Hugo presented the minutes of the previous meeting. Dr. Vanessa Landrus moved to approve the minutes and Dr. Rick Anderson seconded the motion. The Council unanimously approved the minutes with Dr. Jinhee Lee abstaining.

II. International Student and Scholars & Study Abroad: Mr. Mutombo Andy Kabasele

1. Mr. Kabasele provided the current number of international applications and admissions for Fall 2019. He did not have the current number of I-20s but would provide more information at the next meeting.
2. He presented the number of students who will be participating in Summer 2019 study abroad programs. Four programs had high enough enrollment to go forward. There were five programs that had to be canceled because of low enrollment. He spoke to the faculty of the canceled programs and told them to not get discouraged and to try again next year. He explained that recruitment did make a difference in the number of students who applied. Also, the cost of the programs is a big deciding factor for students, so if there's a way to keep the costs down, they should try as much as possible. Dr. Landrus asked if the office followed up with students who had applied but then neglected to pay the deposit. Ms. Tooy said that they did and many of them mentioned the cost as a deciding factor. Some had scheduling conflicts, but many just hadn't planned sufficiently to make the deposit by the deadline. The office can work with students if they can't come up with 50% of the total cost, but it's too risky to not require a substantial deposit in advance because the students may back out later when the final amount is due, and after flights and reservations have been made. Dr. Jinhee Lee asked if the office could provide a timeline to the applicants to better prepare and Ms. Tooy said that Ms. Bailey Mitchell, one of the GAs working in the office, has been working on a schedule of dates to help the students be better prepared for deadlines. The Study Abroad office is learning from their

experiences this semester to make next semesters more successful.

3. Mr. Kabasele updated the council on various recent student activities. OISS and AIS had another bus trip to Champaign for students to purchase international foods. They have planned two more trips this semester; one in March and another in April. The students have shared that they have been glad to find reasonable prices at the grocery stores.
4. He provided details of CPT and OPT sessions. The OISS held a CPT session on February 14th which was successful. The students had many questions that Mr. Kabasele and Ms. Bethanny Cougill were able to answer. There will be another CPT meeting on March 21st and an OPT meeting on April 17th.
5. Mr. Kabasele shared with the committee that he is working with Broward College in Florida. The college has multiple campuses in Florida and also four international centers outside the US. He is developing an agreement with them to recruit students from their college who have completed sixty credit hours to transfer and complete their degree at EIU.

He has also created an agreement with the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to provide scholarships for students to attend EIU. OPEC plans to send up to ten students to EIU starting this Fall.

He has also be working with Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM). Previously EIU didn't have an agreement with them, we were just a school of choice. Now that we will have an agreement, he will be able to recruit more students from there.

6. Mr. Kabasele provided details for his upcoming recruitment trip to Parkland College on March 27th. Dr. Jinhee Lee asked if he could provide more details or a flyer so she could share the information with the Japanese Student Group who will be participating in activities at Parkland soon. He said he would send more information for her to share. He also plans to visit Lake Land College, City College of Chicago, and Ivy Tech in the near future.
7. AIS Update: Ms. Sarah Dodoo was unable to attend the meeting, but Ms. Bethanny Cougill provided the council with an AIS update. She shared that AIS has been working with the new Indian Student Association and they have been creating a new constitution and choosing faculty advisors. The AIS leadership met with the Indian student leadership and plan to assist them with any questions or problems.

Ms. Dodoo had also sent out a mach form to find students who are interested in participating in AIS in the future. They will hold a meeting on March 29th, to select new leaders and also to discuss any changes to the constitution.

Ms. Cougill shared that AIS has been spotlighting an international student of the week on Facebook. It has been a successful way to introduce international students to the rest of campus and community.

She also noted that a questionnaire has been sent out to all international students to help understand what issues they have and any specific needs and how AIS can assist them.

AIS and OISS have had two bus trips to Champaign to purchase international food. The first trip in January had 32 students and the second trip in February had 17. Even though there were fewer on the second trip, many students were buying for their friends who were unable to attend, so it is still very popular.

AIS is considering holding a commemoration for the 25th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. They will reach out to students and faculty to see if there is interest in holding something on campus. If it is held, it would most likely be in April and would include a minute of silence for the victims, showing a movie about the genocide, and holding a panel discussion.

Ms. Krishna Thomas wanted to remind the council that March 15th is the deadline for the International Student Scholarship for Fall 2019. The International Scholarship committee will be hearing from Ms. Thomas soon to review the applications.

8. TLC Update: Ms. Schubert stated that there will be a new TLC recruitment representative in Japan and if any faculty would like to provide materials about EIU and their departments, please send them to her and she will get the materials to this new representative.

III. Dean's Report: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson

1. Dean Hendrickson shared with the council that he is very pleased with the progress that the Study Abroad office has made and to stop by their office to see how vibrant it is with all the opportunities to study abroad. They have been able to increase student interest which will hopefully translate into more students taking the opportunity to study abroad. He feels that with the new scholarship opportunities and higher exposure on campus with the study abroad fairs, the number of programs with sufficient enrollment will continue to increase. He thanked the staff and the current graduate students for their work.
2. He also updated the council on the current I-20 numbers. He thanked Mr. Kabasele and the OISS office for their hard work in getting international students admitted quickly and efficiently. Last year at this time, there were 58 completed I-20s and this year there are 101, which is a large increase. There are still challenges with denials from various embassies, but the office has been assisting these students to with ways to try again if they fail the first time. He has been very pleased with Mr. Kabasele's leadership. With new articulation agreements and outreach to various community colleges and other countries. Nationally there has been a decline in international students especially from India and Saudia Arabia, so it's good to have a diverse pool of applicants and with these new initiatives, the numbers should continue to increase. There is also a new partner from Vietnam that will potentially start bringing new students this summer. Dean Hendrickson thanked Ms. Tooy and Mr. Kabasele for all of their work.

Dr. Jinhee Lee let the council know that April is Asian Heritage month and the calendar of events is now being developed and she will share the flyer with more details once it's available.

Dr. Nicole Hugo announced there will be two meetings in April. The first will be April 5th and the usual May meeting that would fall during finals week will be April 26th.

At 9:40 am, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Mattingly