

International Education Council
Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2018
Blair Hall Third Floor Conference 3108

Members present: Dr. Rick Anderson, Dr. Julie Dietz, Dr. Nicole Hugo, Mr. Ifeanyi Ilochonwu, Dr. Vanesa Landrus, Dr. Jinhee Lee, Dr. Mei-Ling Li, Dr. Daniele Nardi, Dr. Dianne Timm, and Dr. Tina Wang

Members absent: Ms. Jessica French

Ex-officio present: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Dr. Barry Kronenfeld, and Dr. Kurt Olausen

Ex-officio absent: Dr. Newton Key and Ms. Sara Schmidt

Guests present: Ms. Lauren Schuberth

I. Approval of Minutes

At 9:00 am Dr. Daniele Nardi called the meeting to order. He presented the minutes of the December 8th, 2017, meeting. After review, Dr. Barry Kronenfeld moved to approve the minutes with no additions or revisions and Dr. Mei-Ling Li seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved the minutes with no abstentions.

Dr. Nardi welcomed and introduced the new council members. Dr. Dianne Timm is filling in for Dr. Catherine Polydore while she is on sabbatical. Also, Dr. Nardi welcomed the new AIS representative. Mr. Ifeanyi Ilochonwu is currently a graduate student from the School of Technology. Also, Dr. Vanessa Landrus has returned to the committee.

II. Reports

1. Study Abroad: Dr. Kurt Olausen

- a. Spring Break Updates – Dr. Olausen updated the committee on the Spring Break Study Abroad program. Of the two proposed programs, the Spanish language trip to Guatemala will proceed with 10 students signed up, but unfortunately the French language Quebec trip was canceled since the minimum number of students was short by one student. Hopefully there will be more interest next year and it will be able to go ahead as planned. The total numbers this year were lower, but hopefully with more students enrolled in the future, there will be an increased interested in studying abroad.
- b. Summer Faculty Led Program Updates – The deadline to sign up for the summer program is today (2/2/18) by midnight. Currently there are 78 students in the system, but of those, 21 students are in programs that probably won't go ahead because of low enrollment. There will mostly likely be four programs this summer. As with the spring break program, the numbers for summer faculty led abroad are lower (after a previous year increase) but hopefully this will improve in the coming years. Dr. Olausen also noted that of the 21 students whose initial programs that may not happen, he always provides them with other options to travel even if it isn't their first choice.

At the next meeting he'll be able to give more final numbers once the deadline has passed.

Dean Hendrickson asked if there were any opportunities for students to study abroad during the winter break. Some colleges have a January term (J-term) where students are able to study abroad during the academic year without affecting their summer schedule. Dr. Olausen said that there hasn't been a winter break program since he's been here (for five years). Since EIU doesn't have a J-term, the time

between semesters is more limited, but it might be possible.

- c. Staff Updates – Dr. Olausen announced that there is a new Peer Advisor in Study Abroad. Her name is Bailey Mitchell and she's a foreign language major. She spent a summer in Spain, so she is experienced in studying abroad. Also there is a new GA. Nima Lane is a History major and he also has international experience as he was born and lived in Ireland until he was ten and his family moved to the US. Dr. Olausen will also be hiring a new GA in the coming weeks.
- d. New Program Proposals – Dr. Olausen let the committee know that the new Faculty Program Proposals for 2019 are now open if anyone has an idea for a new program. There will be a link on the study abroad website under the faculty page.
- e. State Department System Update – Dr. Olausen updated the committee on changes to the State Department Travel Guidelines. Previously The State Department would announce travel alerts and travel warnings for various countries, or certain areas within a country. A travel warning meant a person should avoid traveling there, but the alert was just to let the traveler know to be careful when traveling to certain places. This system could sometimes be confusing. Now they have a new system where each country is given a score between 1 and 4. A level 1 means to exercise normal precautions in that country (the lowest/safest score) and a Level 4 means, do not travel. Since the system is new, schools now must decide where to cut off travel for the level 2 and 3 countries. Also, the previous system gave travel alerts for specific areas in countries, but now each country will receive an overall score but they may also give regional information for places that might be more dangerous. Right now Guatemala is listed as a Level 3, but there are only certain areas that might be dangerous. Dr. Olausen is currently working on a policy to provide guidance for students and parents on how EIU will interpret the levels. More information can be found at the travel.state.gov website. Dr. Olausen feels this system will probably be better than the previous travel alert systems, since it provides information for all countries and also gives details for the level distinction, so the traveler can have the most information to make an informed decision about traveling. If anyone receives or has any questions or concerns about this new system, they can contact Dr. Olausen.

2. **International Student and Scholars: Dr. Kurt Olausen**

- a. Orientation Recap – Dr. Olausen let the committee know that the new international student orientation was held on January 4th and 5th of this year. 37 new students attended and it all ran very smoothly. Afterwards, he met with the new Director of Orientation, Tanya Willard, about improving and possibly revamping the presenters who provide information at the orientation. There were some topics that may not need to be discussed on the first day, and other issues could be broadened. He believes Tanya is receptive to making the orientation more interactive and user friendly.
- b. Spring Enrollment Updates – Dr. Olausen provided the current numbers for international spring enrollment. Currently there are 328 students actively enrolled in courses and 356 student participating in Optional Practical Training (OPT) for internship work experience. This is quite a change from last year when there were 433 students taking classes and 129 OPT students, so that group has doubled meaning that OISS is now serving 120 more OPT students.

There were 62 new students enrolled in the spring, a decline from 184 last spring. But he noted that international students across the US are down. The areas hardest hit are places in the Midwest, Tier 2 institutions, and especially in Indian populations which all of them affect us directly. Brenda in OISS is continuing to recruit and hopefully the numbers will increase. Ms. Lauren Schuberth mentioned that The Learning Center (TLC) was also seeing lower numbers and that flows to the universities. Dr. Olausen did note that of the 37 new student students, ten were from TLC, so the arrangement has been beneficial.

Currently there are 45 countries represented at EIU and we now have a new student from Tanzania. Most of the students come from India and China and various other countries.

- c. Staff Update – Dr. Olausen announced that Dr. David Melton from the School of Technology will be helping OISS for about five hours a week. He will be assisting Krishna process applications for the fall semester since many of the new students will be entering the Technology department and he can assist in reviewing the transcripts. Also Dr. Melton is reassigning one of his GAs to OISS and Political Science has also offered a reassignment of a GA to OISS, so there will be 4 ½ GA positions working in the office.
- d. Communication Plan Update - OISS is also working with Josh Norman and is making a greater effort to automate many of the office recruitment processes and updating as necessary. All these things will hopefully help the office provide a quicker and more streamlined admission process.

Dean Hendrickson wanted to again thank Dr. Olausen for his willingness to step in and do both jobs. Dr. Olausen has been able to juggle both jobs and make a positive difference. Once he is trained on some of the processes, he will be able to take on even more responsibilities.

- e. TLC Update - Ms. Lauren Schuberth updated the committee on TLC. In Fall 2017 there were five students who were prior TLC students who graduated from EIU (2 masters, 3 undergraduates). This spring semester there were ten previous TLC students who entered EIU (6 masters, 4 undergraduates). TLC is continuing to form partnerships with EIU. They currently have an EIU student interning from the Adult Education program. They also have been working with the Foreign Languages department on Globalfest, and they are working with the Technology department on a 2-week summer camp for Chinese high school graduates.

Dr. Olausen also mentioned that they want to expand recruitment at other TLC centers that aren't at universities and hope that Brenda can Skype or visit those places in the future. Ms. Schuberth also mentioned that any TLC students that enter EIU can come back to TLC for free tutoring if they need it.

- f. AIS Update – Mr. Ifeanyi Ilochonwu is the new AIS representative and didn't currently have anything to report about AIS. The Association of International Students (AIS) is planning to meet every Friday, but so far it has been a little difficult to get everyone to attend. Mr. Ilochonwu plans to use the meetings to find out if the students are finding any challenges here and how they are adapting to living and going to school in Charleston. He will have more to discuss at the next meeting.

Dr. Jinhee Lee asked about the International Scholarship committee. The committee had read and ranked the applications, but she never heard if winners were selected. Since there is currently no Chairperson on that committee, she wasn't sure who to ask. Dr. Olausen said that he may step into the role of Chairperson, and will give her and the committee more information once he knew more. There was also a discussion of how the new scholarship system, Academic Works, would affect the international and study abroad scholarships in the future.

Dr. Lee also wanted to note that when there was a global financial crisis in the past, international students looked for more secure places to go to school, like public universities. She felt that we should try to utilize our positive attributes to international students, such a smaller campus in a small town where it is relatively safe. These things can be sometimes become more important

than just cost to international students.

Mr. Ifeanyi Ilochonwu asked if the International scholarships were solely based on academic merit or if there were other considerations. Dean Hendrickson said that academic merit was the primary factor.

III. Dean's Report: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson

- 1. Study Abroad Search Update** – Dean Hendrickson let the committee know that they received over 60 applications for the Study Abroad position. The Search Committee has reviewed the applications and will meet right after this meeting. They are getting close to completing the Form C to send to the Office of Civil Rights to be able to invite candidates to campus. Dean Hendrickson wanted to remind the committee how important their participation would be when the candidates are on campus and asked them to try and find time to meet with each of them. He will let them know at the next meeting who the finalists are and when the on-campus interviews will be.
- 2. Board of Trustees Meeting Update** – Dean Hendrickson informed the committee that two graduate students presented at the last Board of Trustees meeting on 1/26/2018 during the President's report. Sara Dodoo is a graduate student in Family and Consumer Sciences and she represented international graduate students and is also the Graduate Student Dean. Also Charity Huwe, a graduate student in Elementary Education presented as the GSAC President. There had always been an undergraduate report, but not a graduate report, so Dean Hendrickson asked the President if he was interested in hearing from graduate students and the President was very receptive. Both did a great job.

Mr. Ifeanyi Ilochonwu asked the committee if there were any programs or internships that were set up to benefit international students in the summer. Dr. Olausen and the committee gave Mr. Ilochonwu various ideas for ways to find out about opportunities. The committee also discussed ways to better provide information to both international and domestic students about internships and career opportunities.

Dr. Nardi moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 am. The next meeting will be March 2, 2018.

Minutes submitted by Mary Mattingly