**International Education Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 4, 2019**

**Blair Hall Third Hall 3108 Floor Conference 3108**

**Members present:** Dr. Ahmed Abou-Zaid, Dr. Kristin Brown, Mr. Godwin Gyimah, Dr. Vanesa Landrus, Dr. Tina Wang, Dr. Bailey Young

**Members absent:** Dr. Rick Anderson**,** Ms. Mary Fleming**,** Dr. Nichole Hugo, Dr. Mei-Ling Li, Dr. Catherine Polydore

**Ex-officio present:** Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Mr. Mutombo Andy Kabasele

**Ex-officio absent:** Dr. Claudia Janssen Danyi, Ms. Sara Schmidt, Dr. Tanya Willard, Dr. Stephanie Woodley

**Visitors present:** Ms. Bethanny Cougill, Ms. Lauren Shuberth, Ms. Krishna Thomas, Ms. Emily Tooy

1. **Welcome and Introductions**1. At 9:00 am Dr. Tina Wang opened the meeting. Dean Hendrickson welcomed the new IEC member Dr. Jeanne Okrasinski who is the Council of Chairs representative, however she was unable to attend the first meeting.
2. **Approval of Minutes**   
     
   1. Dr. Tina Wang presented the minutes of the September6th, 2019, meeting. After review, Dr. Bailey Young moved to approve the minutes and Dr. Vanessa Landrus seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved with Dr. Kristin Brown abstaining.
3. **Reports**  
   1. **Study Abroad: Mr. Mutombo Andy Kabasele**
      1. Mr. Kabasele reported that the Study Abroad Fair on September 18th was a success. Over 250 students attended and 100 students had their passport photo taken. He thanked Ms. Tooy for organizing the event and for the idea of the photo booth which brought in more students. He noted the deadline for Spring 2020 is October 25th, with the first deposit due November 5th.
      2. Ms. Tooy updated the Council on upcoming Faculty Led Study Abroad programs in the Spring and Summer. She noted that the deadline for the scholarships is now at the same time as the application deadline (October 25th) so students will know if they have additional funds available for the programs they are interested in.
   2. **International Student and Scholars: Mr. Mutombo Andy Kabasele**
      1. Mr. Kabasele discussed his recent recruitment trip to the Middle East. He visited the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. He was able to visit several schools and speak with almost seven hundred students. He also met with quite a few government officials to discuss potential students attending EIU and setting up MOUs with Middle Eastern colleges and universities. He had some students requesting applications for Fall 2020 and he believes the trip was beneficial.
      2. He also recapped his trip from 2018. Although he visited more schools and spoke to more students last year, he tried to be more targeted in his visits this year. He had quite a few student applications from the connections he made, but some were denied by the programs they were interested in at EIU. Since they were graduate programs, the admission process is more restricted. Mr. Kabasele noted that results from these trips may take time because many students need intensive English programs before they can be admitted to the university, so it may take a few years before they apply to EIU.
      3. He let the Council know that OISS is working on creating a paperless application process. They found that the paper based system takes longer to process. Ms. Krishna Thomas explained that this is part of a campus wide effort using myEIU and the current graduate student admission process. They are able to use a cloud based storage system that is tied to the Banner system and can scan previous paper applications. This new system will help OISS make quicker decisions and everyone in the office will have access to the electronic application which will be an improvement from the paper system.   
           
         Mr. Kabasele also noted that there is currently a visiting scholar from China in the English department. Also, Ms. Thomas updated the Council on the international student scholarships. OISS is currently reviewing them to make sure they meet the requirements. Once they review and narrow the list of applications, she will work on sending the applications to the scholarship committee to choose award winners.
      4. AIS Update: Mr. Godwin Gyimah shared that he has been working on trying to contact international alumni through the AIS Facebook page so they can keep in touch with past graduates. He has also been reaching out to various departments to see if AIS can help current students. They are looking forward to the homecoming activities and Global Culture Night which will be November 14th. They have been planning activities for the night and will give more details at the next meeting. The next international grocery shopping trip will be October 19th. Some students shared concerns about the cost of the food, so AIS has been discussing options to alleviate this issue such as going to different stores, or maybe another town, but the options may be limited.
      5. TLC Update: Ms. Schuberth shared that that they currently have fifteen students enrolled which is lower than their normal numbers. Although they have had more applications, they are also dealing with visa denials. She said that because of the lower enrollments, she has been looking at other ways to increase the numbers. She has met with North American Lighting (NAL) in Paris, IL, since their parent company is in Japan. She has been teaching English classes there once a week. In addition, she hopes to have camps and tours with NAL for students in the future. She has also met with various departments on campus and coaches to discuss options. She noted that industry wide the numbers have gone down, but she’s working to keep Charleston’s TLC open and active.
4. **Dean’s Report: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson**

1. Dean Hendrickson noted that during the President’s State of the University speech he gave a “shout-out” to Mr. Kabasele and OISS for their hard work with admissions. Even though they’ve had so many visa denials, international enrollment has increased.  
  
Ms. Bethanny Cougill updated the Council on the International Friendship Program. Currently there are twenty four students placed with thirteen families. She still has eight remaining students that need to be placed, so if anyone is interested, they can visit the OISS website for more information.

Dr. Wang moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 am. The next meeting will be November 1st, 2019.

Minutes submitted by Mary Mattingly