

**International Education Council  
Meeting Agenda  
December 4, 2015  
Blair Hall Third Floor Conference 3108**

**Members present:** Dr. Catherine Polydore, Ms. Jordan Nelson, Dr. Robert Peterson, Dr. Zhiwei Liu, Dr. John Willems, Dr. Daniele Nardi, Dr. Kesha Coker, and Dr. Rigoberto Chinchilla

**Members absent:** Dr. Claudia Janssen Danyi, Dr. Rose Gong, and Ms. Shraddha Shrestha

**Ex-Officio present:** Dr. Kurt Olausen and Mr. Kevin Vicker,

**Ex-Officio absent:** Dean Ryan Hendrickson and Ms. Sara Schmidt

**Invited Guests present:** Ms. Rachel Lindhart, Ms. Lana Beasley, Mr. William Elliott, and Ms. Lauren Schuberth

**I. Welcome**

Dr. Polydore welcomed the committee.

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of November 6, 2015 were approved with no revisions.

**III. Reports**

**1) Study Abroad: Dr. Kurt Olausen**

**a) Security in Study Abroad**

Dr. Kurt Olausen reported that no students are currently located in Paris, but he contacted the 6 students studying in Europe after the attacks to confirm their safety. He handed out the Study Abroad outline for Health, Safety, and Risk Management. The insurance policy has recently added political evacuation and natural disaster coverage. He frequently receives e-mail updates with current global situations. Dr. Olausen is looking to install a locator search on the website connected to Google maps for students to check-in periodically so the office can get an idea of where students are. The recent attacks resulted in no drops in applications.

**b) Spring 2016 Enrollment**

Dr. Olausen reported that the current enrollment for Spring 2016 is 29 students. Today is the deadline for Spring Break in Guatemala; there are currently 14 submitted applications.

He reported a total of 95 summer applications – 90 in faculty led programs, 5 students enrolled in independent programs.

An incentive of a \$50 reduction from applicants' fees was offered for those who turned in applications before Thanksgiving in an attempt to catalyze application submissions.

**c) Recruitment**

The Office of Study Abroad continues doing class presentations. They hosted a faculty-led fair during International Education Week which had a very low turn-out so it will be scheduled earlier in the week next year.

**2) International Students and Scholars: Mr. Kevin Vicker**

**a) Admissions Update**

Mr. Kevin Vicker presented admissions report for Spring 2016 in comparison to Spring 2015. A graph is attached to these minutes. Based on historical trends, he is anticipating that half will show up, but foresees this to be the largest spring enrollment ever.

**b) Orientation Update**

OISS is working in collaboration with New Student Programs to organize orientation. Orientation will take place mainly in the Grand Ballroom and will include a resource fair, 2 community dinners, and will be organized into separate tracks for grads and undergrads.

**c) Spring Activities**

Sounds of the World will take place in February and Celebration is in April.

**d) Visiting Scholars**

There are currently two visiting scholars in the school of business. Dr. John Willems added they're focusing their work in research. One of the visiting scholars, Mr. Ahmed Sakr, has requested an extension. Mr. Vicker stated they are working to reignite a relationship with University of Zaragoza in Spain. Ms. Carmen Berne will be visiting in July/August and we are taking an exchange student from University of Zaragoza.

**e) AIS Update**

AIS has had a great semester; the Sounds of the World event was deemed a success with a turnout of a couple hundred people. "Taste the World" Potluck was also a success. Sounds of the World in will be held in February. AIS is hoping to get one or two undergrads on the executive board next semester. Events are being recorded/photographed and posted on social media.

**f) TLC Report**

Ms. Lauren Schuberth reported that TLC had a successful dodgeball event and would like to incorporate this in AIS. All students are passing their classes as of midterms – one has all A's. The Director at South Bend center just returned from South Korea. Ms. Schuberth is working on a study vacation program for 20-30 high school Chinese students that has been approved and is hoping to have the proposal by Monday. EIU students have been hired to serve as chaperones for activities which is helping with get local and international students more involved. TLC will have an EIU grad student as an intern in the Spring. Inquiries were posed for January and Mr. Vicker reported that the first Iranian visa has been approved.

Ms. Jordan Nelson asked about opportunities to have EIU students work with TLC Students. Ms. Schuberth said they have attempted having classroom observations in the past but scheduling didn't work out. However, she is open to this. Ms. Schuberth and TLC are thinking about making 1 observation a requirement for class for upper levels.

TLC is considering doing a presentation for the workers in the writing center who will be editing International Students' papers.

Enrollment for January: 22 students; several will be going on a leave of absence in December but will be back in January. Thus, there is an anticipated enrollment of 25 for January.

**3) Dean's Report: Mr. William Elliott (sitting in for Dean Hendrickson)**

**a) Search Committee Progress Update**

The search committee interviewing candidates for the Associate Director position in the International Office has done a great job. Three individuals will be arriving in the next 2 weeks for on-campus interviews. IEC members are asked to attend interview sessions and bring others to show our support and dedication to this position.

Associate Director interview dates and candidates:

Tuesday, December 8: Mr. Alex Zimmerman

Wednesday, December 9: Ms. Isha Bangura

Thursday, December 17: Ms. Brenda Cuellar

**b) International Plaza Funding**

In response to the previous request for information about the International Plaza: There is currently \$11,500 in the International Plaza account. Dean Augustine met with some donors in the spring and their preference is to continue looking at this as an on-going project; however, the amount is not currently enough to move forward. The current funds will be left to put towards plaza and we will continue moving on and forward with fundraising. It was asked about how much this project is expected to cost. They are looking for at least a half a million if not one million dollars.

**c) Veritas Articulation Agreement Update**

Progress is being made in creating an agreement between Veritas, Costa Rica and EIU to recruit students for the Master's in Technology program. EIU currently has a Study Abroad relationship with them. Mr. Vicker added currently waiting on signatures and finalizations in agreement.

**IV. Items Pending**

- a. None

**V. Other Business**

Dr. Polydore put on floor for discussion looking ahead at International Ed. Week for next November– brainstorming ways to develop something more visible, better organized, and better planned. This will be executed by having a programs committee and/or subcommittee. Dr. Chinchilla proposed professors or international students hosting different lectures on their culture/experiences. Dr. Olausen supported the idea that involving different departments would draw in more people and help make connections across campus. Dr. Willems proposed having visiting scholars. Mr. Vicker added tying the events into classroom curriculum and material. Ms. Nelson noted it would be beneficial to reach out to EIU 1111 courses and invite them to events. Mr. Vicker will convene a meeting with project committee next semester to further discuss these options. Ms. Lauren Schuberth proposed hosting a panel of her Saudi students to break barriers. Dr. Polydore suggested encouraging faculty to open their classrooms to international students. International Ed. Week could potentially begin the Thursday or Friday beforehand.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEXT MEETING**

**January 15, 2016**

**Blair Hall Conference Room 3108**

## International Admission

Spring 2016 (as of 12-02-15) vs. Spring 2015 (as of 12-03-14)

