

**International Education Council
Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2016
Blair Hall Third Floor Conference 3108**

Members present: Ms. Jordan Nelson, Dr. Catherine Polydore, Dr. Kesha Coker, Ms. Shraddha Shrestha, Dr. Daniele Nardi, Dr. Claudia Janssen Danyi, Dr. Rigoberto Chinchilla, and Dr. Zhiwei Liu

Members absent: Dr. Robert Peterson, Dr. Rose Gong, and Dr. John Willems

Ex-officio present: Dr. Kurt Olausen, Mr. Kevin Vicker, Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, and Ms. Krishna Thomas

Ex-officio absent: Ms. Sara Schmidt

Guests present: Ms. Rachel Lindhart, Ms. Lauren Schubert, and Ms. Brenda Cuellar

I. Welcome

Dr. Polydore welcomed the committee.

II. Approval of the Minutes

1) The minutes of January 15, 2016 were approved with no revisions.

III. Reports

1) Study Abroad: Dr. Kurt Olausen

a) Guatemala Spring Break Update

There will be 13 students and 2 faculty leaders – Dr. Kristin Routt and Dr. Carlos Amaya – attending the Spring Break trip in Antigua, Guatemala, which leaves March 12, 2016. Plane tickets have been purchased.

b) Scholarships Update

Dr. Olausen contacted scholarship applicants for summer programs to let them know the OSA will not be able to give scholarships out because the scholarship money comes from appropriated funds, which were cut off from the spending freeze. The OSA can still award scholarships from smaller foundation accounts. The committee is currently reviewing 65 applications for the foundation scholarships. Award letters will be sent out by end of next week. Should appropriated funds come before the start of faculty-led summer programs, the review committee can return back and review the applications. Surprisingly there have been no program withdrawals seemingly based on the lack of scholarship funds.

c) Summer Faculty-led Programs

Eleven faculty-led programs were offered for this summer; 7 of those will be running. Canceled programs include: Technology program to Italy (0 applicants; may be more successful every-other summer) Archaeology in Belgium (1 applicant), Incredible India (1 applicant), and the MBA program in Cuba. 97 students are accepted or committed to the remaining 7 programs. Students with completed applications received decision notice yesterday.

2) International Students and Scholars: Mr. Kevin Vicker

a) Introduction of Associate Director of International Recruitment

Mr. Vicker welcomed Ms. Brenda Cuellar, new Associate Director of International Recruitment. Ms. Cuellar is adjusting to recruitment by hosting virtual fairs online. She and Mr. Vicker went to Chicago to do

recruitment for specifically Saudi students. Ms. Cuellar thanked the council and Kevin for welcoming her in and looks forward to working with everyone in the future.

Plans for international travel are being tabled at this time. Shenyang University reached out to OISS because one of their agent board members is in the U.S. and would like to visit Illinois and look into investment opportunities. Mr. Vicker is arranging the agent's upcoming visit.

b) Events and Programming

Global Culture Night, formerly known as Sounds of the World, is taking place on February 20th from 7-11 PM in the University Ball Room. AIS is focusing on publicity and will distribute fliers Monday, set up tables around campus, and possibly host a small flash mob in the dining halls. Target audience is community- and family-friendly. Dr. Polydore suggested finding ways to publicize it to the entire community of both Charleston and surrounding towns. Ms. Thomas suggested in addition to fliers, contact local teachers to advertise to their students. Ms. Schubert will pass along information to the CHS choir director. Additionally, AIS is considering also doing a fundraising event and/or a Thai night.

Ms. Shraddha Shrestha reported that AIS has some vacancies on their E-Board and has recently incorporating 6 new enthusiastic, hard-working members.

International students have been sharing with Ms. Shrestha their concern for what they'll do after graduation. Dr. Chinchilla noted that after graduation, the law allows 1 year of working to stay as training. However, one has to start job searching about 8 months before graduation. Dr. Coker asked Mr. Vicker how international students transitioning into employment works here – where is the paperwork handled? OPT is done through OISS and they also host workshops. Career Services at EIU serves all students. Dr. Coker suggested hosting a panel/workshop; she would be happy to present on behalf of Business as well as host her LinkedIn101 session. The following additional suggestions were offered: providing a session on networking, asking companies at fairs if they would be up front about their willingness to sponsor an H1-B Visa, reaching out to international alumni working around the country. Dean Hendrickson would like to invite someone from Career Services to our next meeting to discuss our growth of international students and how to best serve them and prepare them for the workforce. Dr. Hendrickson will also pass on GSAC workshops and information to AIS.

Mr. Vicker is seeking to arrange volunteers to help international students with their taxes. Dr. Coker suggested contacting Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting fraternity.

c) Indian Student Association

The first-ever Indian Republic Day celebration at EIU was a great success. The Indian Student Association is active and growing to improve.

d) TLC Update

TLC has four new students, two of which are EIU-bound and two are spouses of EIU students. Recruitment for the Study Vacation program with the Chinese group is going well. TLC will be hosting a Homestay Appreciation Evening on the evening of February 18th for current and prospective homestay families and they want to invite those interested in being potential homestay families. An informational flier was previously forwarded in an e-mail by Ms.

Lindhart and is also attached to these minutes.

TLC is still seeking a Homestay Coordinator; advertisement efforts are in full swing.

EIU Student Body President Shirmeen Ahmad is speaking to TLC students today at 12:20 PM. On February 11th TLC is hosting a Valentine's Day Party from 12:20 PM – 1:20 PM. All are invited! TLC will be inviting international students on their activities trips to provide them activities.

There is currently a refer-a-friend deal of \$300 for TLC students and tuition will be cut by 30% for new-starts in 2016.

e) **Projects Committee Update**

The Projects Committee met this week and discussed a variety of different events for International Education Week in November 2016. The kick-off will be the Passport Caravan. Other event ideas include: presentation on doing business internationally, international students hosting an interactive walk-through cultural themed room experience, theater/art and a foreign film festival (possibly pairing with the fine arts department). Dr. Coker suggested partnering with the International Business Club; they have hosted a variety of sessions on working internationally. She will speak with different RSO advisors to organize a panel. Dr. Polydore mentioned partnering with the library as well to host an event or public display. Ms. Thomas suggested getting in touch with the Asian Cinema Organization.

3) Dean's Report: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson

a) **Update on New Member Incorporation from Across Campus**

Dr. Hendrickson looked at the IEC bylaws after last month's meeting to investigate adding a member at the ex-officio member capacity. To his surprise, IEC already had an ex-officio position from the Office of Faculty Development, so Ms. Krishna Thomas, Assistant Director of Faculty Development on campus, will now be filling that role.

In regards to proposing the addition of a new member to represent student life, Dean Hendrickson relayed that either a voting member could propose to amend the bylaws and add another member formally or otherwise IEC could just invite different guests to each monthly meeting.

Dr. Janssen Danyi came forward to submit a verbal proposal to add an ex-officio member that could be either the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee, seconded by Dr. Rigoberto Chinchilla. Voting members voted and the motion passed unanimously. Dr. Hendrickson will move forward to find IEC another ex-officio member.

IV. Items Pending

- a. None

V. Other Business

Dr. Janssen Danyi announced the student body president is speaking at the Rally at 4 PM on the Library quad and invited IEC to attend. It's important, please come. Representatives from Springfield will be in attendance.