

**International Education Council
Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2016
Blair Hall Third Floor Conference 3108**

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

Members absent: Dr. Rose Gong

Ex-officio present: Dr. Kurt Olausen, Mr. Kevin Vicker, Ms. Echarial Gaines, Ms. Sara Schmidt, and Dr. Ryan Hendrickson

Ex-officio absent: Ms. Krishna Thomas

Guests present: Mr. Taylor Whittington and Ms. Linda Moore

I. Welcome

Dr. Polydore welcomed the committee.

II. Approval of the Minutes

1) The minutes of February 5, 2016 were approved with no revisions.

III. Invited guest: Ms. Linda Moore

a) Ms. Linda Moore from Career Services talked about international student job preparedness and discussed how her office wanted to help with getting the students prepared for the work force. She discussed how international students are engaged with the resume process and interview process. Ms. Moore spoke on the international students' level of experience and how many of them want OPT. Ms. Moore talked about trying get the students prepared through seminars and workshops. Career Services will plan out the upcoming academic year during the months of April and May. Ms. Moore welcomed input from this council.

IV. Reports

1) Study Abroad: Dr. Kurt Olausen

a) Summer Update

Dr. Olausen believes all faculty-led programs for 2016 are settled. There will 7 programs running and 86 students participating within those. These numbers are down slightly compared to last year. The OSA has an additional 23 students applied for independent summer programs (i.e third party providers, internships, direct enroll, etc). They awarded \$3,900 from endowment scholarship funds. The president authorized Dr. Olausen to use \$12,500 to help boost summer faculty led program numbers.

b) 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 next week, March 12, 2016.

c) Asian Heritage Month Event

The OSA will be hosting an event on studying and working in Asia. It will take place Tuesday, April 12th from 4-5pm and consist of a panel of student talking about their experiences. An alum who is working in Japan is going to be Skyping in to talk about her experience as well.

2) International Students and Scholars: Mr. Kevin Vicker

A) Tax Software

The OISS has purchased the tax software, Glacier, to help their students with federal tax information. A session will be hosted today, run by graduate assistants. The federal taxes are easier to file than the state - the state is different because if they have worked in the state they need to file, which costs them \$25. For state, if they are a first-time filer they have to fill it out manually instead of electronically.

B) TLC Update

Mr. Kevin Vicker gave the TLC update on behalf of Ms. Lauren Schuberth, who was unable to be here today. Ms. Schuberth is now teaching as well as doing her regular director responsibilities. Mr. Vicker met with the CEO last week and the company has been hit hard because the Saudi Scholarship was cut as a result of new leadership. This cut basically states if the student is not admitted into the top 100 schools, then they will not be permitted to be funded. They have closed 5 centers out of their 30 across campuses. IEC discussed some ways to be viable to EIU campus. One of those ways is through writing with technology students, since the students' writing is not strong. They could require a semester-long writing seminar which would cost about \$600 but hopefully offer transferable credits on campus. This is just in the beginning phases and Ms. Schuberth is writing a proposal. Another option would be having their advance level be for transfer credit with English 1001, operating like an AP process. Our contract ends with TLC in May of 2017.

TLC has had an active recruitment process for a summer program from students in China. They're working with an alum to get 14 to 18-year-olds to come for about three weeks in July.

C) AIS Update

Ms. Shraddha Shrestha reported that AIS had a successful program this past week. People are getting adjusted to AIS.

AIS went to the career fair and the students reported they were upset that it was really only geared toward the management side of the companies represented there and not really toward anything else, which is not what the students were looking for.

Students feel there is some form of bias in the library and in dining because new students are getting jobs while the older ones are not. With the library, they received a call that if the student is working in dining, then they can't work in the library. However, if they are working in dining, they could work in the library. Dean Hendrickson noted that he would investigate this concern. Mr. Vicker talked about the dining process and how dining goes down the order of students who apply. Dining calls the students and if they are overseas it may be hard to contact them because they don't email. There are about 75 students who work in dining. Most of the more administrative jobs across campus are held by American students.

Mr. Vicker commends AIS with their Global Culture Night. It was one of the best he has seen.

During Asian Heritage Month, AIS is setting up a table to provide fun facts for each day about different Asian countries. They are also planning to show a documentary about various Asian countries. They want to set up a YouTube channel and do an International Student of the Week type video segment in order to share their stories. They'll start it out with faculty and other influential people and then move on to students. The OISS is already doing something like this, so Mr. Vicker suggested working together in order to make this happen.

A concern is the international students do not know any of the individuals in the OISS. Some of the students are reluctant to talk with the office. They were thinking about providing information as to who are individuals they can go to in order to help them both in the OISS and across campus.

There's a possibility of having members, chosen from their Facebook page, come to the IEC meetings with questions or issues they want to address. There would be like one or two students at a meeting.

D) Recruitment Efforts and Events

OISS participated in a SACM event. Ms. Cuellar attended a fair in Chicago and had three applicants. She also visited English centers in Chicago, Cincinnati, and Indianapolis. Ms. Cuellar had about 12-20 request information. Ms. Cuellar has been communicating with international students via virtual chat in order to help with answering questions and building rapport about once or twice a week. They had an International Student Day in which approximately 94 students participated in.

OISS signed an agreement with Heartland Community College for a provisional admission program. The agreement says upon completion of an associate's degree they then transfer to EIU.

Talked with Veritas University about their incoming group and being able to go and present to them about the OISS.

3) Dean's Report: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson

a) OISS Staff Update

Ms. Aimee Bowersock's position is being bumped. She plays a big role when it comes to international admissions. She will be leaving March 12th but there will be someone new in her position.

b) Dean Hendrickson thanked Dr. John Willems for his efforts to partner with the University of Dhaka.

V. Items Pending

a. None