

**International Education Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 1, 2016**  
**Blair Hall Third Floor Conference 3108**

**Members present:** Dr. Rigoberto Chinchilla, Dr. Rose Gong, Dr. Zhiwei Liu, Dr. Daniele Nardi, Ms. Jordan Nelson, and Dr. John Willems

**Members absent:** Dr. Kesha Coker, Dr. Claudia Janssen-Danyi, Dr. Robert Petersen, Dr. Catherine Polydore, and Ms. Shraddha Shrestha

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

**Ex-officio absent:** Ms. Echarial Gaines

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

**I. Welcome**

Dr. Daniele Nardi and Dean Hendrickson welcomed the committee.

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

1) The minutes of March 4, 2016 were approved with no revisions.

**III. Reports**

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

**a) Summer and Fall Programs Enrollment Update**

Summer 2016 faculty-led programs have settled at 85 participants. This is compared to 94 last year, a change reflective of overall enrollment at EIU. Summer 2016 independent programs currently have 17 committed, compared to 34 last year. There are 22 enrolled for Fall 2016 compared to last year, which had 14. The COST student teaching program has 6 this fall and there are already 5 applications for Spring 2017, so the OSA may use the maximum allotment of 10 spaces for this year.

**b) Application Fee Proposal**

The OSA recently instituted a new website with the company Terra Dotta. This system includes the website, applications, and database. The OSA pays Terra Dotta \$2,500 annually for their services, with an additional \$30 per processed application. Dr. Kurt Olausen would like to make this system self-sustaining so that it pays for itself. He is proposing to implement a \$45 application fee, which would cover the \$30, while the outstanding \$15 goes toward the \$2,500 annual fee. Dr. Olausen presented a written proposal with supporting research to supplement this. A discussion ensued. This would be applied to applications submitted after the start of the fiscal year.

The proposal to introduce a \$45 study abroad application fee was motioned by Ms. Jordan Nelson, seconded by Dr. Rose Gong. The motion passed (4,1,1).

A proposal was presented to reduce the administrative fee from \$300 to \$150 for students doing international communication activity abroad – Dr. John Willems moved to approve, which was seconded by Dr. Rigoberto Chinchilla. The motion passed unanimously (6,0).

Dr. Olausen will move forward and report back.

**c) Spring Break Guatemala Return**

The Spring Break program to Guatemala was successful.

**d) Security Update**

The OSA has no one studying in Belgium. The faculty-led summer

program that goes to Belgium had already been canceled due to enrollment. Summer and Fall Pre-Departure Orientations have been amended to include European security alerts and security issues. Dr. Olausen is tracking list serves and none are saying not to send students to Europe. The OSA is encouraging students to register with consulates and embassies while abroad.

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

### **a) Staff Update**

A new staff member, Lori Click, started in the OISS. The office is very fortunate to have her.

### **b) International Awards Reception**

The International Awards Reception is on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM in the Foyer of Old Main. A social will take place between 5 – 5:30 PM with awards to follow. President Glassman will be handing out the awards.

### **c) Tax Workshops**

Two tax workshops were held for international students and the OISS continues to give out the code to them for federal taxes.

### **d) Admissions Update**

Fall 2016 graduate school applications are up 59% from last fall; graduate admits is up 37%; I-20s are up 50%. Technology department has proposed to admit more students than in the past and are awaiting approval. There is a total of 747 applications – 500 of those are for technology.

Fall 2016 undergraduates are up 11 admits and ahead on I-20s submitted compared to previous numbers.

The scholarship proposal is still pending as they are awaiting approval for a budget as well as waiting on approval to pay agencies from the last year.

Ms. Lauren Schuberth asked about the process for obtaining conditional acceptance for programs. Such decisions are made by the department. Some graduate programs with smaller numbers are less willing to offer conditional acceptance; some are contingent upon assistantships or internships. There is a list of programs approved to give conditional acceptance published on the website.

### **e) Recruitment Update**

The OISS has hosted visitors to campus from China over the last couple of weeks with Dalian University, which started through a connection with Shenyang Urban Construction University. This institution is part of a network of private universities in northern China. Ms. Brenda Cuellar has been participating in College Week Live, a platform in which she virtually chats with prospective students online. A Virtual Fair took place a couple of weeks ago with agents in Chile during which she presented in Spanish. Ms. Cuellar has also been meeting and making connections with departments across campus.

### **f) AIS Update**

AIS is very actively planning Asian Heritage Month. The first event takes place today. Ms. Krishna Thomas added that Asian Heritage Month is celebrating 10 years in April. The many activities are very student driven and student engaging. Indian Student Association is partnering with University Board to host Holi this year on April 9.

### **g) TLC Update**

TLC is still receiving applications and holding a steady in- and out-flow. There are 9 students now joining the 2016 program starting at

EIU. There were 4 new starts this session; 1 Panamanian and 3 Saudi Arabians, who also would like to attend EIU. A Congolese student and a few of her family members are starting in the fall and hoping to start at EIU soon as well. TLC is working to provide students with the best services and experiences possible.

**h) Other discussion**

Dr. Zhiwei Liu shared a document about the US-Sino University Partnership and said there is a program of 80 Chinese students coming this August.

**3) Dean's Report: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson**

**a) Dhaka University**

A memorandum of understanding was signed with Dhaka University in Bangladesh to establish collaboration. The relationship has grown since then. Fifteen Dhaka representatives may be here on April 12. They requested a research conference. Dean Hendrickson invited IEC's assistance to show up and welcome the Dhaka representatives. We are happy to have this quickly-growing partnership with Dhaka University. There will be a signing ceremony with the President at 11:30 AM with a luncheon to follow. Dr. Willems is working out the details.

**b) Update on AIS Concerns**

In response to the previously discussed concerns as presented by Ms. Shraddha Shrestha, Dean Hendrickson shared her concerns about international student employment at the library with Dean Lanham. In response, Dean Lanham shared that the library has a tremendous demand for positions which has heightened as they have lost positions due to increased student payment. They have 7 international students working there, making up 13% of the library student assistant staff. Some of the jobs require proficient English language skills. Dean Lanham has offered to meet with Ms. Shraddha Shrestha, and Dean Hendrickson is attempting to meet with Ms. Shrestha as well. Ms. Thomas suggested that each hiring office has public materials available, outlining job descriptions and requirements. She also suggested incorporating a workshop on interview tips and professional attire during international orientation. A discussion followed. Dean Hendrickson will communicate this to Dean Lanham.

**c) Update from Student Life**

Saturday, April 16 from 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM – LASO is hosting a Fiesta Latina in McAfee Gymnasium. New Student & Family Programs has selected a team of new Prowl members for Opening Weekend in August. Six undergrad international students are on their team, representing Nepal (3); Bangladesh (1); Ghana (1); and Kenya (1). These members will be led by a returning international student staff member.

**IV. Items Pending**

- a. None

**V. Other discussion**

- a. IEC Exec Board is still planning to meet on May 7, 2016. The Exec Board will meet the Friday before to assess the potential agenda.