**International Education Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 10, 2020**

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

**Members present:** Dr. Ahmed Abou-Zaid, Dr. Rick Anderson, Dr. Kristin Brown, Ms. Mary Fleming, Dr. Nichole Hugo, Dr. Vanesa Landrus, Dr. Mei-Ling Li, Dr. Julie Park, Dr. Catherine Polydore, Dr. Tina Wang

**Members absent:** Mr. Godwin Gyimah, Dr. Jeanne Okrasinski

**Ex-officio present:** Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Mr. Mutombo Andy Kabasele, Dr. Claudia Janssen Danyi, Ms. Sara Schmidt

**Ex-officio absent:** Dr. Tanya Willard

**Visitors present:** Ms. Bethanny Cougill, Ms. Emily Tooy

1. **Welcome**At 9:02 Dr. Tina Wang called the meeting to order.   
     
   1. Approval of minutes: After review, Dr. Tina Wang moved to approve the minutes from theFebruary 28th, meeting. With no objections, the minutes were approved with Dr. Catherine Polydore abstaining.
2. **Reports**  
   1. **International Student and Scholars: Mr. Mutombo Andy Kabasele**

* + 1. Mr. Kabasele shared the number of undergraduate and graduate applications and admissions of international students for Fall 2020. He also provided the number of I-20s issued this year so far.
    2. He let the Council know that OISS hosted several Virtual Admission Open Houses in March since currently he’s unable to travel and recruit international students as normal. He will most likely hold more in the future since many students apply while they are at school, but since many schools are currently closed, the number of applications were lower than normal. He is also working with Illinois Community Colleges Representatives to potentially hold recruitment events online in the future.   
         
       Dr. Wang asked about the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) since she had heard they were currently closed. Mr. Kabasele said that they were closed to the public but still processing applications.  
         
       He also noted that the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is now accepting electronically signed versions of I-20s, so now OISS can email students copies of I-20s which helps them to be able to travel to get visas.
    3. Mr. Kabasele updated the Council on how COVID-19 has affected OISS activities. There were 105 international students who left the US and returned to their home countries. Fifty one international students on post completion OPT lost their jobs and seventeen students on a grace period were not able to go back home. OISS has set up a FAQ on their website to help international students with questions they may have. OISS is watching closely the Homeland Security website for clarification on many issues. Students can take online classes anywhere they are, but if they do go home there may be problems with them returning to the US in the fall. Mr. Kabasele and OISS are monitoring the situation carefully and are working to keep all the international students updated.
    4. Mr. Kabasele said that the International Education Awards (IEA) will be announced online. OISS is working on an IEA event that will either be prerecorded or presented live if possible. OISS will let the Council know the date and time once it has been determined.
    5. Ms. Mary Fleming asked if there was any technical support for students who might be struggling with face to face classes going online. Mr. Kabasele said his office is staying in contact with students using zoom video conferencing, email, and phone to support them with questions and concerns they may have. Also Dean Hendrickson said that the option for students to request classes be counted as Credit vs No Credit is a way to help students who may be struggling with their classes online.
    6. AIS Update: Mr. Bethanny Cougil let the Council know she discussed AIS with Mr. Godwin Gyimah but currently everything has been canceled. They had many planned events for the spring, but since they are unable to meet, Ms. Cougil has been staying in touch with students also with zoom, phone calls, and email. There are still some students on campus, so she has been trying to stay in touch with them.   
         
       Dr. Polydore asked if OISS should hold a zoom meeting to answer questions. Mr. Kabesele said they did have a meeting and sixty students attended. They used the chat function to answer student questions. They plan to hold another meeting in the future.

**2**. S**tudy Abroad: Mr. Mutombo Andy Kabasele**

* + 1. Mr. Kabasele said that eight of the ten student who were in a spring Independent Study Abroad Programs returned to the US. Of the two students who decided to stay, one is in New Zealand and the other is in France.
    2. He also said that the summer scholarship award winners have been noticed, but since all of the summer study abroad programs have been canceled, students will not receive the funding this summer but will still be able to use the scholarships in the future once the programs are back.
    3. Mr. Kabasele said the deadline for faculty to submit Faculty Led Study Abroad Proposals for 2021 is May 22nd, 2020. Also, the deadline for students to apply for Spring Break 2021 programs will be in October of 2020. The scholarship deadline will also be the same day as the application deadline. The deadline to pay the deposit will be in November of 2020. Also the deadline for Summer 2021 programs will be early February 2021 with the scholarship deadline also on the same date.
    4. Mr. Kabasele told the the Council that this virus has caused many difficult moments for everyone and we have all been impacted. He hoped that we can all stay positive during this time and support the students as much as possible.
    5. Dr. Landrus asked about international students who may have registered for Fall classes but then return home and can’t return to US and need to take the classes online. Mr. Kabasele said it will depend on the situation with the virus in the fall and also the department of homeland security, but his plan is to talk to faculty who have international students in their classes and ask them to try and be lenient with the students. Faculty may need to set up some of their classes online to help international students who may not be able to return to the US, but still want to take classes at EIU.

1. **Dean’s report: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson**
   1. Dean Hendrickson thanked Dr. Wang for setting up this virtual meeting. He noted that the office of Study Abroad will honor the awards from the Weber Scholarship recipients when programs are able to be held again.
   2. He also said that the office of Study Abroad is reversing any costs associated with students returning from their programs early.
   3. He said that once Faculty Led Study Abroad proposals are available to review, he would like to hold a virtual meeting with the committee to discuss the proposals instead of just by email, so the members can discuss each proposal individually.
   4. Dean Hendrickson let the Council know that the Broward College Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has now been approved. He thanked Mr. Kabasele for his work on the transfer agreement.
   5. Dr. Landrus asked if there had been any discussion about classes being held in person or online for this Fall semester. Dean Hendrickson said they are still working on the Summer semester. Most summer classes are held online, so they will go forward. The provost is working with faculty to move all face to face and hybrid classes online also. What will happen this fall is being discussed but no decision has been made yet.

Dr. Wang moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 am. The next meeting will be May 1st, 2020.

Minutes submitted by Mary Mattingly