**International Education Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 28th, 2020**

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

**Members present:** Dr. Rick Anderson, Dr. Kristin Brown, Mr. Godwin Gyimah, Dr. Vanesa Landrus, Dr. Mei-Ling Li, Dr. Jeanne Okrasinski, Dr. Julie Park, Dr. Tina Wang

**Members absent:** Dr. Ahmed Abou-Zaid, Ms. Mary Fleming, Dr. Nichole Hugo, Dr. Catherine Polydore

**Ex-officio present:** Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Mr. Mutombo Andy Kabasele

**Ex-officio absent:** Dr. Claudia Janssen Danyi, Ms. Sara Schmidt, Dr. Tanya Willard

**Visitors present:** Ms. Bethanny Cougill, Ms. Emily Tooy, Ms. Lauren Schuberth, Ms. Emma Solmon

1. **Welcome**At 9:03 Dr. Tina Wang called the meeting to order.   
     
   1. Approval of minutes: After review, Dr. Tina Wang moved to approve the minutes from the January 31st meeting. With no objections, the minutes were unanimously approved with no abstentions.   
     
   2. Dean Hendrickson welcomed Dr. Julie Park to the Council.
2. **Reports**  
   1. **Study Abroad: Mr. Mutombo Andy Kabasele** 
      1. Mr. Kabasele presented the numbers for various current and upcoming Study Abroad programs. Right now there are fourteen students registered for the Mexico Spring Break program and ten students are currently studying abroad this semester.  
           
         There are currently two students in Italy and because of the recent coronavirus outbreak, OISS has recommended to them to come back to the US, but they have both decided to stay for the remainder of their programs. OISS and the office of Study Abroad have been working hard to stay informed about how to manage this issue in regards to future programs. Dean Hendrickson thanked Ms. Emily Tooy for compiling news and updates from various sources.   
           
         There are two faculty led study abroad programs in Italy planned for this summer. There will be a meeting soon to evaluate the situation regarding the outbreak of coronavirus, but currently no decision has been made. The CDC has a travel advisory system and if Italy is changed to Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel, then they will have to cancel the programs. There is another program that had planned to stop in Italy, but the schedule can be rearranged if needed. Dean Hendrickson also thanked Mr. Kabasele for his work on this issue.
      2. Mr. Kabasele also provided the numbers for independent Study Abroad programs and Summer Faculty Led programs. For a few of the summer programs, the deadline for down payments have been extended since there’s still uncertainty about what will happen with the virus.
      3. Ms. Emily Tooy let the Council know that there is a new Study Abroad student organization. There had been one previously when Mr. Olausen was here, but it had not been active recently. Now Ms. Tooy and an undergraduate peer advisor have reactivated it as an official RSO. It will now be called the Study Abroad Club and she plans for them to meet two times a month and will have games and trivia. The meetings will be open to any students interested in or who have studied abroad. She plans to prepare flyers and share more information on social media to spread the word about the new club.
      4. Mr. Kabasele said that they received 111 applications for various scholarships that are currently available.
   2. **International Student and Scholars: Mr. Mutombo Andy Kabasele**
      1. Mr. Kabasele shared the number of applications and admissions of international students for Fall 2020. He also said that there will be three Fulbright scholar students at EIU this fall.
      2. He also let the Council know that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is in the final stages for Broward College.
      3. Mr. Kabasele stated that March 5th will be the first virtual Open House at EIU. Prospective students will be able to apply online and the application fee will be waived. This is the first of many opportunities to try and increase recruitment. He will also continue to visit local community colleges, which is a good avenue for students because they are already in the US and don’t have to worry about visa denials. He also let the Council know that the application deadline for scholarships is March 1st.
      4. Mr. Kabasele stated that Wednesday, April 1st will be the International Education Reception from 3:00 – 5:00. There will be multiple award categories. Ms. Bethanny Cougill explained that the international students will be asked to nominate fellow students for various awards and then a ballot will be created with the top three nominations. Then students will be asked to vote for the winners.   
           
         Ms. Cougill also updated the Council on other upcoming activities. OISS held the first two of the four “glimpses of…” programs. The next two will be on March 4th. OISS also held another OPT training session and also a Q & A session about F-1 visa changes. This session was quite popular and Daily Eastern News covered it and also had lots of questions. The next session will be on March 3rd regarding Exit and Reentry. On March 10th there will be a CPT information session and then on April 27th, an H-1B informational session. Ms. Cougill is still pairing students and community members for the International Friendship Program, so there’s still time to sign up if anyone is interested. Also OISS plans to do something during the upcoming CLAS Spring Fest towards the end of the semester.
      5. AIS Update: Mr. Godwin Gyimah let the Council know that AIS held their first indoor Olympic Games. On March 6th AIS will join with the Graduate Student Association to spotlight the countries of Ghana and Egypt. Also on March 25th, AIS will be visiting Casey, IL, to see the “world’s largest” displays.
      6. TLC Update: Ms. Lauren Schuberth let the Council know that their corporate office has decided to close the Charleston branch. The last day for TLC will be April 17th. They weren’t able to keep their numbers of students high enough to justify keeping it open. She wanted to thank everyone for their support over the last five years and wished EIU all the best. Mr. Kabasele thanked Ms. Schuberth for her time at TLC and Charleston and let her know this decision was beyond her control. The intensive language programs have been suffering with visa denials the same as other programs.
3. **Dean’s report: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson**
   1. Dean Hendrickson also thanked Ms. Schuberth for her hard work at TLC and is sorry to see the program leave. He spoke to the CEO and asked them to stay, but they are facing system wide challenges. He noted that Ms. Schuberth has been a great advocate for TLC and they had been a great partner with EIU.
   2. He also let the Council know that Study Abroad has a new 900-hour employee. Ms. Emma Solmon will be assisting Ms. Emily Tooy with various projects in the office and will be helping with office support. Ms. Tooy also welcomed Ms. Solmon and noted her appreciation for the new position.
   3. Dr. Vanessa Landrus announced that GlobalFest Illinois 2020 would be held on February 29th. She thanked Ms. Lauren Schuberth, Ms. Emily Tooy, and Mr. Godwin Gyimah for their help with the festival. She noted that over 185 students from various Illinois high schools would be arriving on campus for the event so it is a great opportunity for EIU and the World Languages department.

Dr. Wang moved to adjourn the meeting at 9: 45 am. The next meeting will be April 10th, 2020.

Minutes submitted by Mary Mattingly