

**International Education Council
Meeting Minutes
October 1st, 2021
Blair Hall Conference room, 3108**

Members present: Dr. Kristin Brown, Ms. Jenny Chi, Dr. Nichole Hugo, Dr. Vanesa Landrus, Dr. Meiling Li, Dr. David Melton, Ms. Olivia Triplett, Dr. Vernon Woodley

Members absent: Dr. David Viertel

Ex-officio present: Mr. Mutombo Andy Kabasele, Dr. Amy Rosenstein

Ex-officio absent: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Dr. Michael Gillespie, Ms. Sarah Schmidt, Dr. Tanya Willard

Visitors present: Ms. Lutete Celina Carlos, Ms. Krishna Thomas

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Dr. Li presented the minutes from the previous meeting (September 3, 2021). After review the minutes were approved with Dr. Nichole Hugo and Dr. Kristin Brown abstaining.

II. Reports

1. International Students and Scholars and Study Abroad: Mr. Mutombo Andy Kabasele

- a. Mr. Kabasele provided an update on the Fall enrollment numbers and also the current Spring 2022 applications and admissions.
- b. Ms. Krishna Thomas gave an update on the September activities. She said they held a late orientation for those who missed the one at the beginning of the semester. They also held a grocery trip to Walmart and visited Lincoln Log Cabin. They are planning a number of activities in October including another grocery trip and OPT/CPT sessions and a trip to a local pumpkin patch. Also, they will again be participating in the Homecoming parade with flags of countries represented at EIU.
- c. Ms. Thomas also said that OISS is working on the schedule for International Education Week. They will start with Global Culture Night and also a flag parade on November 15th. They are working with Panther Dining to have a Celebration of International Foods at the various halls and may also try to get food trucks on campus. They hope to hold a session with international students sharing their experiences in the US and a session about the game of Cricket. They also plan to bring back the Glimpses of (Country) sessions. They want to have both fun activities and scholarly activities planned. If any members have any suggestions, they should contact OISS.
- d. Mr. Kabasele updated the Council on changes at the US State Department. They previously required an in-person interview for international students to receive their visa, but that requirement has been waived through the end of 2021. He explained this might make the process of receiving a visa harder. He also let the Council know that the US

Custom and Border Protection agency may require all incoming international students to be fully vaccinated. There are currently only three vaccines approved in the US, so this might cause some problems for students who don't have access to vaccines or who received a vaccine that isn't on the US approved list. This is still an ongoing and complex subject. He will update the Council when he knows more. Right now OISS has been working to notify students about the change.

2. Study Abroad: Ms. Celina Carlos

- a. Ms. Carlos let the Council know that the Study Abroad Fair was very successful with 231 students signing in. They held an International Chocolate Tasting Day prior to the Fair which helped to promote it. There were quite a few partners who couldn't make it because of the pandemic, but they did send materials, which were shared at a Global Partners table. Also, various on campus services and departments attended. They also had a passport photo booth for students to use.
- b. Ms. Carlos also gave an overview of the students who are currently enrolled in Spring Break and Summer study abroad programs. She also said that there are quite a few students who are interested in studying abroad in the future, so they've been advising a number of students recently. She also shared the deadlines for scholarships and registering for summer faculty led abroad programs.
- c. She also gave an update on upcoming activities. She said they've been working with the Living Learning Communities (LLC) on campus to connect with more Freshman students since they have more time and potential opportunities to study abroad. She provided details of various activities including working with OISS during the International Education week and also plans for holiday activities.

III. Subcommittee Assignments

1. Dr. Li let the Council know the current members of the two subcommittees. The Study Abroad subcommittee is Vernon Woodley, Mei-Ling Li, Jenny Chi, Kristin Brown. The International Scholarship Committee is Nichole Hugo, David Melton, and David Viertel.

Dr. Li moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 am.

Minutes submitted by Mary Mattingly