

**International Education Council
Meeting Minutes
November 5th, 2021
Blair Hall Conference room, 3108**

Members present: Mr. Akhil Azmeera, Dr. Kristin Brown, Ms. Jenny Chi, Dr. Mei-Ling Li, Dr. David Melton, Dr. David Viertel, Dr. Vernon Woodley

Members absent: Dr. Nichole Hugo, Dr. Vanesa Landrus, Ms. Olivia Triplett

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

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

Visitors present: Ms. Lutete Celina Carlos

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Dr. Li called the meeting to order at 9:13. Mr. Kabasele welcomed Mr. Akil Azmeera who is the current AIS Vice-President, and Ms. Mahveen Arshi who is currently the Coordinator of Activities.

Dr. Li presented the minutes from the October 1, 2021, meeting. After review, Dr. Vernon Woodley moved to approve the minutes. The Council approved them with Dr. David Viertel abstaining.

II. Reports

1. Study Abroad: Ms. Celina Carlos

- a. Ms. Celina Carlos provided an update on the applications received for Study Abroad programs in 2022. So far, the office has received 90 applications for various upcoming programs. Currently they are working on the Spring applications, but they have had some difficulty getting visas in a timely manner since embassies are busy from backlogs during the pandemic.
- b. They are also working on figuring out how to handle all the different COVID-19 restrictions for each country and notifying students about these requirements. She has been working with Dean Hendrickson to come up with a process to decide when a program can go ahead. Currently if the CDC has declared a country to be at Level 4 which means that COVID-19 is very high in the country, then they will cancel the program. Also some European countries are requiring a “Green Pass” that shows either that a traveler is vaccinated or has a negative COVID test.

Dr. Kristin Brown asked how soon they would decide on whether a program would proceed or not. Ms. Carlos said they hope to know by March of 2022. Then if COVID cases improve or the pandemic is better, then the programs can go ahead as planned. Dr. Brown noted that this makes recruitment harder, but Ms. Carlos said their main concern is for the safety of faculty and students. She hopes to provide the Council with more specific information at the next meeting.

- c. She also provided an update on the recent and upcoming Study Abroad Activities. They are continuing to work with the Living Learning Community group so they can reach more freshman and sophomores and let them know about opportunities to study abroad. They held two events

that were successful and they will soon hold a faculty led panel so faculty can advertise their upcoming programs. Also, International Education Week is coming up and Study Abroad will be participating in various activities. They also plan to hold an open house in the Study Abroad lab so students can stop by and learn about various upcoming opportunities.

- d. Dr. Li presented to the Council the Course Approval Process for Virtual Study Abroad Options memo that Dean Hendrickson had sent by email earlier in the week. This is the same proposal that was in place previously, only instead of a temporary process, this memo will make IEC the curriculum governance body for any future Virtual Study Abroad Courses. Dr. David Viertel made a motion to approve the memo as written and Dr. David Melton seconded the motion. The Council unanimously approved the updated proposal process.

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

- a. Mr. Kabasele provided the Council an update on the Spring 2002 international application and I-20 numbers compared to the previous year's numbers. The application numbers are quite high and they expect to receive more by the final deadline. He anticipates the total number could reach as high as 2,500 applications. He also shared the top countries and the top programs applicants are interested in. He explained that many are interested in majoring in Technology at EIU. Because of space limitations the department will only be able to accept 500 students, so any potential students above that number will be denied. The department is asking these students to reapply next year, but it's unknown what will happen if these students are unable to start the program this year.
- b. Mr. Ben Rienbolt updated the Council on the various recent international activities. They took a group to the Champaign mall, and had training sessions regarding OPT/CPT and H-1B visas. There will be more sessions in the spring semester.
- c. Also, he said that homecoming was successful and they had 27 country flags in the parade. The international students also participated in the tent city with the graduate school and there was a good showing of both students and community members.
- d. He let the Council know that Global Culture Night will be on November 12th in the University Ballroom. There are already twelve performances planned and he anticipates more to sign up. Also, he is working with the dining halls to serve international food during International Education Week. And he has been in contact with the Political Science Department to see if they could present a talk on the humanitarian changes in Afghanistan. They also plan to have a quick flag parade around campus during International Education Week. He hopes to also bring back the Glimpses of (country) series soon.
- e. Mr. Akhil Azmeera provided an update on the AIS activities. They plan to hold a cricket and badminton tournament soon. There will also be a final shopping trip sometime this semester.

Dr. Li moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 am.

Minutes submitted by Mary Mattingly