

**International Education Council
Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2017
Blair Hall Third Floor Conference 3108**

Members present: Dr. Rick Anderson, Dr. Nicole Hugo, Dr. Mei-Ling Li, Dr. Daniele Nardi, Dr. Catherine Polydore, and Dr. Tina Wang

Members absent: Dr. Julie Dietz, Dr. Christiane Eydt-Beebe, Ms. Jessica French, and Dr. Jinhee Lee

Ex-officio present: Ms. Echarial Gaines, Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, and Dr. Kurt Olausen

Ex-officio absent: Dr. Newton Key, Dr. Barry Kronenfeld, and Ms. Sara Schmidt

Guests present: Dr. Austin Cheney, Ms. Brenda Cuellar, and Ms. Lauren Schuberth

I. Approval of Minutes

At 9:00 am Dr. Daniele Nardi called the meeting to order. He presented the minutes of the November 3rd, 2017, meeting. After review, Dr. Catheryn Polydore moved to approve the minutes with no additions or revisions and Dr. Mei-Ling Li seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved the minutes with Dr. Nicole Hugo abstaining as she was absent at the previous meeting.

II. Dean's Report: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson

1. Administrative Leadership Update

Dr. Hendrickson updated the committee on the administrative leadership changes since the last meeting. Mr. Matthew Walters who had begun in August had a family crisis arise and had been out for about three weeks before officially resigning on November 14th to focus on his family. Dr. Hendrickson thanked Mr. Walters for his service to the international office and also to the committee. His departure created an immediate vacancy. Last year there had been a national search for the Assistant Dean of International Students and Scholars which ended with no candidates. A second national search was conducted which produced two candidates, of which Mr. Walters was hired. At this time, the Provost didn't feel another search would be productive since time is limited and the Office needs someone to help with enrollment management immediately. With Dr. Kurt Olausen's leadership in Study Abroad and his international experience, it was decided to appoint him to the position of Assistant Dean for International Education starting December 1st, 2017. Dr. Olausen will oversee both the Office of Study Abroad and the Office of International Students and Scholars.

2. Study Abroad Coordinator Search

Since Dr. Olausen will now share his time between the two Offices, the Provost has allowed the Graduate School to hire a Study Abroad Coordinator. Dr. Olausen currently has GAs helping in the office, but the coordinator will be available full time. A search committee has been created with Dr. Jinhee Lee as the Chair along with Ms. Priscilla Gonzalez, Dr. Mei-Ling Li, Dr. Dan Nardi, and Dr. Randy Beebe as the other members. The committee has met once and will next meet with the office of Civil Rights next Tuesday. Dr. Hendrickson explained he will need the Board's assistance when the candidates are brought onto campus in February or March. The plan is for the selected candidate to start on April 1st, 2018. Dr. Hendrickson will send the position announcement to the committee and he asked them to please share it with anyone they thought might be interested in the position.

III. Reports

1. Study Aboard: Dr. Kurt Olausen

a. Spring Semester Enrollment

Dr. Olausen updated the committee on Study Abroad enrollment numbers. Currently there are ten students signed up to study abroad in Spring 2018. This number is down from last Spring when there were 21 students.

b. Spring Break

Regarding spring break trips, Dr. Olausen noted there are currently 10 students signed up for the Guatemala program (down from 16) and 10 registered for the Quebec program which is a new program. He said that Dr. Schroth, who is leading the program, wasn't sure about a couple of the students currently enrolled and if the number drops below ten then Quebec will be canceled.

c. Summer Program Updates

Dr. Olausen noted that the summer enrollment numbers are very preliminary, but currently there are 30 applications across 8 of the 10 faculty led programs being offered this summer. This number lacks the speech pathology students, so the number will definitely fluctuate in the coming months. The deadline for students to sign up is February 2nd, 2018.

Dr. Olausen also mentioned that the information about Study Abroad scholarships for spring break hasn't gone out yet, so some students will be making their final decisions based on that information. Scholarship information should go out either today (12/8) or Monday (12/11).

2. International Students and Scholars: Dr. Kurt Olausen

a. Office Priorities

1. Enrollment Management

Dr. Olausen told the committee he is working on enrollment management in his new position. Ms. Brenda Cuellar has shared with him a flow chart and he is working with the office to help streamline the process for students as much as possible. He will be able to give more detailed information at the next meeting.

2. International Orientation

Dr. Olausen also let the committee know that the International Orientation is currently in motion and will be held on January 4th and 5th, 2018. Currently 92 students have confirmed to attend the orientation and a few more may sign up before then. Dr. Hendrickson also let the committee know that Sarah Doodoo who is the Student Dean of the Graduate School has created a video for incoming students that will be helpful and also the Graduate Student Advisory Council will participate in welcoming new international students. He is very impressed with the fantastic graduate student leadership this year.

b. Recruitment Updates

1. Brenda Cuellar

Ms. Cuellar updated the committee on her recent trip to Brazil and Columbia. She thanked Dean Hendrickson for supporting her endeavor in this area. She spent one week in Brazil and was able to visit three different agencies that were recommended by TLC. She was also able to visit two high schools while there. She also spent one week in Columbia and met with three different agencies and visited three different high schools. She was able to maximize her time at both places and came back with hundreds of leads for potential students for EIU. Dr. Olausen asked her if students were interested in any certain majors and Ms. Cuellar said many were interested in Business Technology and

some in Pre-Med. Dr. Hendrickson asked if students were still interested in coming to America or if other countries have become more competitive. Ms. Cuellar said that students were looking at other countries in addition to the US, but because of our low prices students were still interested in coming here. Dr. Hendrickson thanked Ms. Cuellar for making the trip as this was a new recruitment area for EIU.

2. Austin Cheney

Dr. Cheney updated the committee on his trip to the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh. He attended a conference that the university was hosting. He also visited the US Embassy in Dhaka prior to the conference to discuss the visa approval process with them as many student visas for EIU has been denied recently. Although the embassy denied that their procedures had changed, Dr. Cheney told the committee the visa reviewers look very closely to see if the proposed students are interested in returning to their home country or trying to stay in the US after graduation. If there is any indication that the students wouldn't come back, their application is denied. Dr. Cheney discussed the process with the embassy and felt the visit along with the conference had been successful. Dr. Hendrickson thanked Dr. Cheney for making the trip.

c. Spring Enrollment Updates

Dr. Olausen updated the committee on the spring enrollment numbers. Currently there have been 463 applications (384 graduate, 79 undergraduate) with 272 being admitted and 233 I-20s submitted. Also, as was previously mentioned, there are 92 confirmed for the international orientation.

Dr. Polydore asked if these number were similar to last year and Dr. Olausen said that the overall applications were slightly lower, but he thought that the admitted rate was similar.

d. TLC Update

Ms. Lauren Schuberth updated the committee on enrollment at The Language Company. She said that two students will graduate this fall and five or six will be entering this Spring. There are a few students who will be finishing at TLC this Spring and plan to enroll at EIU in the Fall. She will be able to provide more accurate enrollment numbers to the committee at the next meeting.

e. AIS Update

Dr. Hendrickson told the committee that there is currently no Association of International Student (AIS) representative on IEC, but a new one will be appointed in the Spring semester.

3. Other Items: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson

Dr. Hendrickson wanted to update the committee on an interesting event that happened on Tuesday (12/5). An affiliate of the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM) stopped by on behalf of Mashael Alaradi who is a current graduate student in Biological Sciences. Mashael had her thesis defense filmed and shared online. Dr. Hendrickson is excited about how this video will be able to cultivate advocacy in many new areas.

He also let the committee know that EIU would have a visiting scholar from China starting in the Spring. The scholar will be in the Department of English for a year.

He announced that Dr. Wang had her baby since the last meeting. He and the committee wanted to wish her congratulations on the new arrival.

Dr. Hendrickson also let the committee know that Dr. Eydt-Beebe had been filling in for Dr. Landrus this semester, but this will be her last meeting as Dr. Landrus will return in the spring. He wanted to thank Dr. Eydt-Beebe for her time on the committee.

Also, Ms. Echarial Gaines is stepping down from the committee. Dr. Hendrickson wanted to thank her for her time and assistance on the committee.

Also, Dr. Polydore will be on sabbatical during 2018, so will not be a part of the committee. He also thanked her for her contribution to the committee.

Dr. Nardi moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 am. The next meeting will be January 12, 2018.

Minutes submitted by Mary Mattingly