

**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 7, 2014**

**Members present:** Dr. Marilyn Coles, Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Dr. Rigoberto Chinchilla, Dr. Dejan Magoc, Dr. John Willems,

**Members absent:** Dr. Lania Knight, Dr. Jacquelyn Frank, Dr. Tesa Leonce, Dr. Dan Carter, Ms. Zeenat Chaudhary, Mr. Nicolas Ferry,

**Ex-Officio present:** Ms. Sara Schmidt, Ms. Beth Craig

**Ex-Officio absent:** Dean Augustine, Mr. Kevin Vicker,

**Invited Guests present:** Mr. Evan Lohmann, Mrs. Zandra Anderson

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Dr. Ryan Hendrickson
- II. **Approval of the Minutes**
  - a. December and February Minutes  
Approval of minutes was postponed to April meeting due to lack of a quorum
- III. **Report from Housing**

Mark Hudson/Kelly Miller: This report has been postponed until the April meeting.
- IV. **Items to be Acted On**

There were no items that needed action at this time.
- V. **Reports**
  - a. Dean's Report: Dr. Hendrickson
    1. The search process for Study Abroad Director is going well but nothing has been concluded.
    2. Global Ambassadors  
Approval was given by the committee for all the Global Ambassadors and notification letters were sent. More information concerning this will be reported at a later time.
  - b. International Students and Scholars:
    1. The Language Center is expected to open on schedule in Fall 2014. It may be housed in Carmen Hall.
    2. Dr. Rigoberto Chinchilla voiced concern over the many applications being received for the Technology Department. He suggested the process needs to be reviewed. He is part of the review committee for this department.
    3. The International Award Banquet will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Diane Jackman will be recognize for her efforts in fund-raising for International events.
    4. ITEP language scores received approval for Fall 2014. The next steps are to begin a partnership proposal and include this information on the International webpage.

- c. Study Abroad: Mr. Evan Lohmann
1. One hundred twenty-two applications have been received. The number of students applying is down from a year ago. Western Europe is the most popular.
  2. Dr. Marilyn Coles gave a report on the International Educators of Illinois Conference. Listed below is a summary of her notes.

1. *STA is not part of our Mission Statement*
2. *Admissions office -- STA should be present when students and parents inquire or visit EIU.*
3. *Health services - are they scaring our students about going abroad?*
4. *Importance of how STA is introduced -- It is hard to convince students otherwise when they have decided not to study abroad.*
5. *Do Study Abroad Fairs really work?*
6. *Advising students: huge responsibility! Find out the students' goals -- sometimes they need to become aware of that first.*

**An STA advisor has about 14 umbrellas!**

**Curriculum specialist, currency converter, disability advocate, financial aid authority, residence life expert, insurance evaluator, personal counselor, risk liability evaluator, budgetary official, recruiter, crisis manager, credential evaluator, Travel agent, and Clairvoyant!**

Challenges:

- *Familiarization with foreign educational systems*
  - *Staffing/office resources:*
    - *Managing large numbers of students*
    - *Managing large numbers of programs*
  - *Advising non-US citizens, students with disabilities, financially challenged students*
  - *Campus politics*
  - *Perceived obstacles:*
    - *High cost*
    - *Fit with major*
    - *Delayed graduation*
    - *Foreign language requirements*
    - *Effect on GPA*
7. *Deadlines for students are an issue we need to address: what can we do after we stand on our heads, kick and scream that they need to pay attention to the deadline to cancel or there are \$\$ consequences? Would it help to have a formal acceptance into the program? Faculty leading programs would need to do this.*
  8. *Faculty leaders need to make certain the students develop cultural awareness of the country **before** they travel. STA has a pre-travel orientation but cannot go into that kind of detail. STA gives lots of basic information.*
  9. *Encourage students to open their minds and not expect to have everything be the same as home. Why would you go abroad just to eat at McDonald's?*
  10. *Resources: Faculty leaders; health services; passport services; student affairs staff; peer advisors/returnees*
  11. **RISK MANAGEMENT!** *If in doubt, contact STA office for a starting point.*

## **VI. No other business**

Meeting adjourned 9:45 a.m.

Recorder: Zandra Anderson, International Students and Scholars Office

**Next meeting scheduled April 6, 2014**

**Blair Hall Conference Room 3108**