**International Education Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 5, 2019**

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

**Members present:** Dr. Rick Anderson, Dr. Kristin Brown, Ms. Sarah Dodoo, Dr. Vanesa Landrus, Dr. Jinhee Lee, Ms. Bailey Mitchell, Dr. Catherine Polydore, Dr. Tina Wang

**Members absent:** Dr. Julie Dietz**,** Dr. Nichole Hugo, Dr. Mei-Ling Li

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

**Ex-officio absent:**  Dr. Barry Kronenfeld, Ms. Sara Schmidt, Dr. Tanya Willard, Ms. Stephanie Woodley

**Visitors present:** Ms. Bethanny Cougill, Ms. Krishna Thomas

1. **Approval of Minutes**At 9:03 am Dr. Vanessa Landrus called the meeting to order.   
     
   Dr. Landrus presented the minutes of the previous meeting. Dr. Rick Anderson moved to approve the minutes and Dr. Kristen Brown seconded the motion. The Council unanimously approved the minutes.
2. **Agenda Items: IEC Chair & Vice Chair**
   1. Dr. Landrus asked if anyone was interested in holding the position of Chair for the 2019-2020 academic year. Dr. Tina Wang volunteered for the position. Dr. Landrus moved to approve Dr. Wang as the new Chair and Dr. Kristen Brown seconded the motion. Dr. Landrus then asked about the Vice Chair position. Dr. Rick Anderson said he was interested. Dr. Tina Wang moved to appoint Dr. Anderson as the new Vice Chair for next year and Dr. Kristen Brown seconded the motion. The Council unanimously approved both positions.
   2. Ms. Krishna Thomas gave an overview of the International Student Scholar awards and some of the issues she has run into because of the new Academic Works scholarship system. There is a university wide deadline of March 15th, but that deadline is sometimes late for international students who need to list scholarship awards on their I-20 applications. Currently there are quite a few applications for the scholarship committee to review. Dr. Vanessa Landrus suggested that the number of committee members could be increased, so each member will have fewer applications to review. Dr. Hendrickson said that the scholarship requirements could be increased so fewer students qualified and therefore fewer applications to review. Also, it was discussed to make the due date earlier than March 15, so the committee had more time to review the applications and also to help students who need to list scholarship awards on their I-20s. Ms. Thomas and OISS will discuss these and other suggestions and work to make the process more streamline for the committee and the students.
3. **International Student and Scholars & Study Abroad: Mr. Mutombo Andy Kabasele**
   1. Mr. Kabasele provided the current number of students who will be participating in upcoming study abroad programs. He also showed a comparison between this year and last year of students who are participating in faculty led study abroad and also independent programs.
   2. He let the Council know that Monday, April 15th, will be the International Education Reception starting at 2:00 at the Doudna Fine Arts Center.
   3. He provided the numbers of international students who have applied, and those who have been admitted and also the number of I-20 submissions.
   4. Mr. Kabasele let the Council know that OISS will be changing the procedure for undergraduate international admission. Previously the requirement was a 2.5 high school GPA, but there are no universal standards for how grades and GPA are calculated worldwide. In addition, he noted that many other peer institutions do not use a 2.5 GPA standard, and EIU’s own internal data indicates that GPA for international undergraduates is not a strong predictor of retention at EIU. For the next two years, OISS will only ask for high school transcripts instead of a minimum GPA. This will increase the number of eligible students. They will create a pilot program starting this Fall and compare the students who were admitted with transcripts only to the 2.5 minimum students to see if there is a difference in student success.
   5. AIS Update: Ms. Sarah Dodoo updated the Council on the Indian Student Association. They had been going through the procedure to become a Registered Student Organization and have now been approved by the EIU Student Government to be an official RSO. The AIS group also recently met with Dan Crews in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to discuss ways the international students could be involved in Celebration at the end of the month. Also there was another successful grocery trip to Champaign with one more scheduled in April. She wanted to thank OISS and the Graduate School for providing these trips as the students find them important in finding their local foods. Ms. Dodoo said that AIS hoped to hold elections for next year soon, but they hadn’t had enough at the meetings to vote. She has extended the deadline to April 15th, so hopefully there will be elections soon, but they may have to wait until next Fall.  
        
      Dr. Jinhee Lee wanted to thank Ms. Dodoo and AIS for suggesting the Genocide in the 20th Century event, as part of Asian Heritage Month. They were able to hold panel discussions with international students from affected countries. Without Ms. Dodoo and AIS’s initiative, these discussions would not have happened.
   6. TLC Update: Ms. Lauren Schuberth wasn’t able to attend the meeting, but Ms. Krishna Thomas said that she went to TLC to talk to students who were interested in attending EIU. Also, Mr. Kabasele said that OISS and TLC are continuing to work on a camp that will be happening this summer.

1. **Dean’s Report: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson**
   1. Dr. Hendrickson reminded the Council about the Asian Heritage Month activities in April. The Council received an email from Dr. Jinhee Lee with more details. There will also be a discussion for financial preparation for anyone who is interested in studying abroad in Asia.
   2. Dean Hendrickson updated the council on the international student online class tuition change. The change was supposed to start this summer, but there were some concerns that there hadn’t been enough notice of the change to the students. The President discussed the matter with his cabinet and decided to move the change of the online tuition rate to Fall 2019 to allow for more transition time.
   3. He also updated the Council about the Shenyang Urban Construction University (SUCU). In 2014, EIU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with them and the School of Technology and SUCU began collaborating. The agreement was supposed to bring more Chinese students to EIU, but SUCU began requesting EIU do more for them such as teaching more of their courses in China and the original agreement wasn’t working as planned, so EIU has decided to end the agreement with them.
   4. Dean Hendrickson invited the Council to attend the Graduate Expo on April 11th in the Dvorak Concert Hall at the Doudna Fine Arts Center. There will be poster presentations and an awards ceremony. It is a large event that helps feature successful graduate students.

At 9:55, Dr. Vanessa Landrus adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 26th.

Minutes submitted by Mary Mattingly