

International Education Council
Meeting Minutes
March 4th, 2022
Zoom Meeting

Members present: Ms. Jenny Chi, Dr. Nichole Hugo, Dr. Vanesa Landrus, Dr. Mei-Ling Li, Dr. David Melton, Mr. Martin Osei, Ms. Olivia Triplett, Dr. David Viertel, Dr. Vernon Woodley

Members absent: Dr. Kristin Brown, Ms. Olivia Triplett, Dr. David Viertel

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

Ex-officio absent: Dr. Michael Gillespie, Dr. Amy Rosenstein, Ms. Sarah Schmidt

Visitors present: Ms. Lutete Celina Carlos, Mr. Ben Rienbolt

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Dr. Li called the meeting to order at 9:04.

She presented the minutes from the February 4th, 2022, meeting. After review the Council unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

II. Reports

1. Study Abroad: Ms. Celina Carlos

- a. Ms. Celina Carlos provided an update on the Summer Study Abroad programs. On February 11th, the office reviewed the CDC COVID-19 levels for countries that were to host the summer programs and found they were all still at a Level 4 (COVID-19 is still very high and travel should be avoided), so the summer faculty led programs for 2022 have been canceled. The virtual study abroad class is still being offered this summer and Dr. Porter is positive about the number of students interested in the course. She also noted that there are a few students enrolled in independent programs. The applications for Fall programs were due today (3/4/22) and currently she has had 19 applications.
- b. She said that although the faculty-led summer courses were canceled, the office is still open and active. They have continued to advertise opportunities and have presented to four different classes. They are also active on social media and hosting events for students to stay active in the opportunities to study abroad. They also met with the Honors College to discuss ways to include more honors students and to potentially be able to allow students to use a course abroad instead of the senior seminar requirement.
- c. She has also been busy reviewing and renewing various partnership agreements. Some of the agreements had been quite old and policies may have changed in the meantime. After discussions with the Procurement office, in the future the partnership agreements will be reviewed every three years to make sure they are up to date.

Dr. Melton asked about the process for canceling the summer programs. Dean Hendrickson explained that the policy has been consistent from the beginning of the pandemic and is the same information Dr. Melton received from the Dean and the Provost in the past.

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

- a. Mr. Ben Rienbolt provided a recap of the most recent activities. After last month's meeting he and Mr. Martin Osei were able to meet with the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) and discussed different programming activities that are available to graduate students. They also held the basketball night that international students were invited to. The two games were well attended by the students. In addition, they were able to take about 30 students to Champaign for a grocery trip and are already planning a possible second trip later in the semester. They are looking into other activities such a roller skating or bowling.

He had a meeting with the Indian Students Association (ISA) about the upcoming Holi celebration and also about more collaboration between the ISA and the GSAC. He has been trying to contact UIUC's ISA group to see if they would be interested in holding a Cricket match with EIU later in the semester. OISS is planning upcoming meetings for rules about Exit and Re-entry and also CPT. In April, they are planning a trip to Casey to see the big things. He's been working on ideas for activities for the spring semester and asked the Council to share any trip suggestions they might have with him.

Mr. Andy Kabasele also mentioned that the International Education awards will be coming up next month. OISS will be sending out forms to students soon to vote for the award winners.

- b. Mr. Kabasele updated the council on the number of Fall 2022 applications and the number of I-20s issued. He noted that it's hard to say exactly how many of these students will attend in the fall but he's hopeful that the number of international students will continue to increase. Following the update, there was a discussion about the application and admission process and the process for letting students know their status.
- c. AIS Update: Mr. Martin Osei provided an AIS update. He said they held a game night on February 23rd. They are still planning cricket and soccer games hopefully sometime in April. AIS is also continuing to try and help new international students with housing needs when they arrive in Charleston. The Council discussed housing issues and ways to potentially help incoming international students.

III. Dean's Report: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson

1. Dean Hendrickson let the council know that with the increased number of international students, OISS has been working to provide more student engagement activities. Mr. Ben Rienbolt has been working on numerous program activities and as he discussed, met with the GSAC to let them know of the opportunities that are available. OISS has also provided funding to the Indian Student Association to help them connect with new incoming students.

Dr. Li moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Mary Mattingly