

**International Education Council  
Meeting Minutes  
December 6, 2018  
Blair Hall Third Floor Conference 3108**

**Members present:** Dr. Rick Anderson, Dr. Kristin Brown, Dr. Julie Dietz, Ms. Sarah Dodoo, Dr. Nichole Hugo, Dr. Vanesa Landrus, Dr. Mei-Ling Li, Dr. Catherine Polydore, Ms. Amber Salutric, Dr. Tina Wang

**Members absent:** Dr. Jinhee Lee

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

**Ex-officio absent:** Dr. Barry Kronenfeld, Ms. Sara Schmidt

**Visitors present:** Ms. Bethanny Cougill, Ms. Lauren Schuberth, and Ms. Kendra Schubert

**I. Approval of Minutes**

At 9:00 am Dr. Nichole Hugo called the meeting to order. She began by welcoming Dr. Kristin Brown who is the new representative from the College of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Hugo then presented the minutes of the previous meeting. Dr. Catherine Polydore moved to approve the minutes and Dr. Vanessa Landrus seconded the motion. The Council unanimously approved the minutes with Dr. Brown abstaining.

**II. Agenda Items: IEC Chair & Vice Chair**

1. Dr. Hugo explained that Dean Minnis of the Lumpkin College of Business and Technology had shared some concerns with her and Dr. Tina Wang that there would now be only one representative on the committee from the Lumpkin College of Business and Technology (LCBT). His main concern was if the representative couldn't make the meeting then the faculty might miss some important information presented at the meeting. He felt that since the majority of international students were from their college, there should be a bigger representation on the council. Dr. Polydore asked about the reaction of the other colleges if we added another representative for LCBT. She also suggested that if their representative couldn't make it, he or she could send an alternate person. Dr. Hugo said she just wanted to let the council know about his concerns and asked them to think about solutions and they would continue discussing the issue after the break.

**III. International Student and Scholars & Study Abroad: Mr. Mutombo Andy Kabasele**

1. Mr. Kabasele gave the number of current international students by college and the number of applications for Spring 2019. He also provided the number of I-20 and visa applications. He noted that there were seventy one visa denials for Nigeria and eight from India. OISS has been providing students with tips for how to prepare for their visa interview. And both he and Dean Hendrickson have been writing letters of support for the prospective students to share at their visa interviews.

2. Mr. Kabasele let the council know that last month he provided training on OPT and CPT and explained the process on exit and reentry into the country. He has also been training the OISS staff so they will be able to answer questions when they arise. He will hold another training session in the spring, but if students have any questions right now, they can contact him.
3. He reported that there have been two study abroad fairs this semester and that Ms. Emily Tooy was providing a pre-departure orientation for the first group of students about to study abroad. This orientation will help them understand the customs of the country they are visiting and answer any questions they may have before leaving. The Study Abroad office has seen an increase in interest and Mr. Kabasele is expecting over 200 students during the summer term.
4. He showed the number of currently enrolled students for Spring 2019 and for the Spring Break trips. The Guatemala program has seven enrolled with two pending, so it will go forward, but the Quebec trip currently only has five with one pending, so it doesn't have enough enrolled to continue at this time. The deadline was December 1<sup>st</sup>. He also showed the council the list of prospective programs for 2020. For the Summer 2019 faculty led programs, there are already seventy applicants and the deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The independent programs currently have fifteen applicants and the deadline is March 8, 2019. The Fall 2019 programs have eleven applications with a deadline of March 8, 2019. He explained that they have been promoting the programs on a weekly basis and all program information is up to date on the Study Abroad website.
5. AIS Update: Ms. Sarah Dodoo said that some of the international students who applied for scholarships wanted to know when they would find out the status. Dr. Julie Dietz said that some of the scholarship committee were still reviewing the applications. There was also some discussion regarding which committees should be looking at which applications. Mr. Kabasele suggested that Ms. Krishna Thomas in OISS could answer further scholarship and committee questions.

Ms. Dodoo gave the council a review of the activities AIS had participated in over the semester. She said the main goal was for AIS to establish more partnerships both on campus and in the community. The highlight of the semester was the International Education week with the Culture Night opening the week. They also participated in a Thanksgiving meal and a multicultural church service. There were a few activities that had low attendance and they will reconsider doing those activities in the future. They may also try to have future activities on a certain day and time so more people can participate. They also had a Poetry Night at Jackson Avenue Coffee. They will continue to work with Career Services to provide support for international students to find work opportunities that they are eligible to do. In the Spring they will participate in the Holi Festival and Celebration Festival of the Arts in April. Also in the Spring OISS and AIS will work to provide transportation to Champaign for interested international students to purchase international food. TLC currently provides this accommodation to their students, and AIS may be able to work with them. Also next semester she hopes to contact international EIU alumni and to continue being engaged in the local community. Dean Hendrickson thanked her for working with Career Services since this is an important issue for international students.

#### **IV. Dean's Report: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson**

1. Dean Hendrickson let the council know that William Weber, the former Vice President for Business Affairs and longtime Economics professor, provided another gift of \$5,000 to be used for study abroad scholarships. The first \$5,000 will be used in Spring 2019 and the next \$5,000 will be available in Summer 2019. A Daily Eastern News article will be coming out soon about the gifts.

2. Dean Hendrickson also updated the council on the international student language proficiency requirement. Currently there are several routes to prove English proficiency and starting next summer, students will also be able to use a University of Nebraska High School diploma to fulfill the requirement. This is an online high school program, and a group of students from Vietnam had requested it, so EIU agreed to try it. This program should be a nice addition to the other ways to prove language proficiency.
3. He then passed out a memo regarding online class tuition for international students. He explained that international students weren't being charged the appropriate rate for online classes, but starting in the Summer 2019, they will pay the international student rate for online classes. He has been sharing this information with various groups so students who might be affected are aware of the change. He stated that the I-20 applications have always had the international tuition rate on the form, so that information won't change. Also, international students are only allowed to take one online course per semester. He indicated that this memo would be shared with all EIU international students and all graduate coordinators later that day.

**V. TLC Presentation** – Ms. Lauren Schuberth and Ms. Kendra Schubert provided detailed information about The Language Company (TLC). TLC is currently housed in Thomas Hall on EIU's campus. They provided the history of TLC and introduced the staff and their duties. In addition to explaining the classes and schedule, they provided details of the partnership with EIU. They also gave details if anyone was interested in being a homestay family for any students attending TLC. In addition to the language intense courses, they are also working on a summer camp and also an online TOEFL prep class. They hope to continue the successful partnership with EIU.

Dr. Hugo reminded the Council that the next meeting will be February 1st, 2019.

At 10:05 am, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mary Mattingly