

**International Education Council
Meeting Agenda
March 3, 2017
Blair Hall Second Floor Conference Room 2116**

Members present: Ms. Maja Dinger, Dr. Rose Gong, Dr. Nichole Hugo, Dr. Vanesa Landrus, Dr. Daniele Nardi, Mr. Tanmay Pant, Dr. Robert Petersen, Dr. Catherine Polydore, and Dr. John Willems

Members absent: Dr. Zhiwei Liu and Dr. Chao Wen

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

Ex-officio absent: Dr. Austin Cheney and Dr. Newton Key

Guests present: Ms. Brenda Cuellar, Ms. Rachel Lindhart, and Ms. Lauren Schuberth

I. Welcome

Dr. Robert Petersen welcomed the committee.

II. Approval of the Minutes

1) The minutes of February 3, 2017 were approved with no revisions.

III. Reports

1) International Students and Scholars: Ms. Brenda Cuellar on behalf of Dr. Austin Cheney

a) Website Revisions

Dr. Austin Cheney has been working with PantherTech to improve the OISS website by incorporating new designs within the content and material as well as converting the site to mobile friendly. Changes will be updated this afternoon.

b) International Student Food

Dr. Cheney has been meeting with several local grocery stores to discuss the incorporation of various international food items on the store shelves. He has received a positive response thus far from these providers. Dr. Cheney is actively working with AIS to organize a list of desired international food items. More updates to come.

c) Inter-Group Coordination

Dr. Cheney is working with leaders of different international student organizations on campus to connect each of the groups' leaders and encourage them to collaborate and ultimately unite the international student body and further retention efforts.

d) Summer Admissions Forms in TEC

EIU is implementing a new admit cycle that will be accepting international students into the Technology program during the summer session to generate increased enrollment. An additional summer orientation will take place in collaboration with other departments on campus to orient the students and ensure for them a smooth transition. There are 25 – 30 prospective international students who were deferred to summer or fall enrollment that would be eligible for this admit cycle. From this, the OISS anticipates 15 new students during the summer session.

e) Federal Tax Support

The OISS purchased a new tax preparation software called Glacier for international students to utilize to submit their taxes. The OISS is organizing workshops and seminars to assist international students in the use of this software. Ms. Brenda Cuellar invited IEC members to please connect individuals who may be interested in leading these

sessions with the OISS. Ms. Cuellar thanked Dean Ryan Hendrickson for his support in obtaining the software.

f) Awards Ceremony Update

The International Awards Reception is scheduled to take place Monday, April 3 at 3 PM in the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

g) Scholarship and Recruitment Update

International student scholarship applications were due March 1. Ms. Krishna Thomas will be compiling the applications for review and nominees will be selected soon.

Dr. Hendrickson thanked Ms. Cuellar for her work for the OISS. Ms. Cuellar shared that she was invited to Chicago by Kaplan for a conference and recruitment event. There were 100 – 170 international students in attendance. Ms. Cuellar networked with 15 students who expressed interest in EIU. Dr. Vanesa Landrus suggested reaching out to faculty and staff to recruit while they are traveling abroad.

h) AIS Update

AIS hosted a Valentine's Day-themed event on February 10. This was a successful event with a diverse group of students in attendance.

AIS will host Global Culture Night on Friday, April 7. A badminton and soccer sporting event will be held on March 24. Dr. Landrus suggested sharing posters for AIS events with IEC so that members can advertise in their respective colleges and departments. Additionally, Mr. Tanmay Pant shared that AIS intends to provide support for Asian Heritage Month as that approaches.

i) TLC Update

There are currently 11 students enrolled in TLC. TLC is considering offering various types of personal and professional development courses for an affordable cost for students in an effort to compensate for lower numbers this session. TLC is hosting a Spring Break trip from Thursday, March 16 – Sunday, March 19 to Memphis and Chattanooga, Tennessee. They also will be providing transportation to Champaign for shopping.

The Charleston High School Music Honor Society collected money at their latest concert to organize gift baskets for TLC students. This event raised \$150 for baskets. Ms. Lauren Schubert presented at the international-themed concert. TLC will have a pizza party with the CHS Music Honor Society students on March 24.

2) Study Abroad: Dr. Kurt Olausen

a) Summer Faculty-Led Programs Update

Seven faculty-led summer study abroad programs have been canceled. Two additional programs have received extensions for student applications. Five faculty-led programs will run this summer: Art in Florence and Rome, EIU-UVeritas Spanish in Costa Rica, Science and Schooling in the Bahamas, Speech Pathology in London, and Sport Industry in the U.K. It is projected that 50 – 60 students will participate in faculty-led programs during Summer 2017. The OSA will be revisiting the organization and implementation of faculty-led programs for the future.

b) Study Abroad Scholarships

Dr. Kurt Olausen expressed his thanks to the Study Abroad Committee for awarding scholarships to summer faculty-led program participants. There were 44 applications and 34 students received scholarship awards. The amounts awarded are as follows: \$14,690

need-based funds; \$5,700 in merit scholarships (all \$300 per student); and \$1,855 from endowed scholarships. The scholarship amounts ranged from \$300 – \$1,600. There is not a tuition waiver scholarship for summer programs.

c) Upcoming Deadlines

The deadline for summer independent and fall study abroad programs and scholarships is Friday, March 10. There are currently 30 applications for Summer 2017 and 30 for Fall 2017. The deadline for 2018 program proposals is March 31. Dr. Olausen requested that individuals interested in leading a study abroad program during 2018 please get in touch with him.

d) Projects Committee Update

Dr. Polydore shared that the Projects Committee met recently and determined that EIU will celebrate International Education Week from November 6 – November 11, 2017. The Projects Committee is considering a number of possible events and activities and has organized each effort into five categories: Educational, Social, Entertainment, Activities, and Marketing. Events of each type will take place during the week and International Education Week will end with a campus-wide celebration on Saturday, November 11.

3) Dean's Report: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson

a) Search Status

There will be a third candidate coming to campus to interview for the Director of OISS position on Tuesday, March 7. The open interview session is at 1:30 PM in Martinsville Room in the MLK Jr. University Union. Dr. Hendrickson invited IEC to attend and offer insight on the decision process. Dr. Hendrickson thanked Dr. Olausen for his leadership in this search as well as the search committee members for their contribution.

b) Upcoming China Trip

Dr. Cheney and Dr. Anita Shelton, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, will be traveling to China from March 11 through March 20. They will be hosted by EIU's partner, the Education and Culture Association for SINO U.S. Universities Exchange. Dr. Cheney and Dean Shelton will be meeting with different universities throughout China.

c) University of Dhaka, April 21 Visit

The primary representative of the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh will be coming to campus on April 21 to continue to work towards an establishment of a partnership with EIU. EIU has already received international student applications from this university after the initial proposals were made.

IV. Items Pending

- a. None

V. Discussion

- a. Dr. Polydore shared that as the chair of Making Excellence Inclusive, she has received feedback that some international students are experiencing antagonistic behavior from members of the campus and Charleston communities. There has been one report of a student who is afraid to attend class as a result of these interactions. A discussion on this topic ensued to determine various courses of action to combat this behavior, educate the community, and continue to best support EIU's international students. It was suggested that these concerns be

communicated to student groups and organizations like GSAC and Student Government. Dr. Hendrickson said that he would relay these concerns to these organizations and requested that Dr. Polydore keep IEC updated on upcoming events.

- b.** Ms. Echarial Gaines shared that New Student and Family Programs is looking to hire International Prowl Leaders to lead undergraduate international students through orientation. She asked that IEC please send recommendations of international undergraduate student leaders that would be interested in being a Prowl Leader.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEXT MEETING
April 7, 2017
Blair Hall Conference Room 3108