

**International Education Council  
Meeting Agenda  
October 7, 2016  
Blair Hall Second Floor Conference 2116**

**Members present:** Ms. Maja Dinger, Mr. Beluchukwu Ebede, Dr. Vanesa Landrus, Dr. Zhiwei Liu, Dr. Daniele Nardi, Dr. Robert Petersen, Dr. Catherine Polydore, and Dr. John Willems

**Members absent:** Dr. Rose Gong, Dr. Nichole Hugo, and Dr. Chao Wen

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

**Ex-officio absent:** Mr. Bill Elliott, Dr. Newton Key, and Ms. Sara Schmidt

**Guests present:** Ms. Brenda Cuellar, Ms. Rachel Lindhart, and Ms. Krishna Thomas

**I. Welcome**

- 1) Dr. Robert Petersen welcomed the committee.

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

- 1) The minutes of September 2, 2016 were approved with no revisions.

**III. Reports**

**1) International Students and Scholars: Ms. Krishna Thomas and Ms. Brenda Cuellar**

**a) Fall Enrollment Update**

- i) EIU is hosting 435 international students including the 158 that started in the fall 2016 semester. They provided IEC with a handout with charts depicting current enrollment demographics. Dr. Catherine Polydore suggested publishing this online. The handout is attached below.

**b) Spring 2017 Admissions Update**

- i) Spring 2017 applications are due October 15<sup>th</sup>; all documents are to be to the OISS by October 30<sup>th</sup>. As of this morning there are between 150 and 180 applications for various programs for the spring. The biggest draw is Technology.

**c) International Education Week**

- i) International Education Week is the week of November 14 – 18. The OISS is still working to develop their IEW plans. Mr. Bill Elliott is considering a panel discussion during IEW. Dr. Hendrickson added that last those coordinating IEW were granted access to the display cases in the main walkway of Booth Library to display international artifacts. The Office of Study Abroad under the direction of Dr. Kurt Olausen will be leading this initiative. If anyone is willing to contribute cultural items that are international in nature, this event will be done again. Please aim to have your items to the OSA by Friday, November 11. You are welcomed to encourage your colleagues to contribute as well. Please provide information on the country of origin of each artifact and a small description of the item.

Dr. Polydore asked Mr. Beluchukwu Ebede, President of AIS, if they would be willing to host an event during IEW or if they would consider scheduling Global Culture Night during IEW in the future. She also asked AIS to schedule their ICGD Coffee Hour during IEW or the week before.

Ms. Krishna Thomas shared that the Center of Humanities is working to initiate a forum to talk about recent immigration and international students on campus and beyond in the community. This is under the direction of Dr. Charles Wharram from the English Department. It is on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**d) AIS Update**

- i) Mr. Ebede thanked the council for supporting AIS and their successful event that was Global Culture Night on the evening of October 1<sup>st</sup>. There were over 300 individuals in attendance and AIS has received positive feedback from those who were there. They are now looking at continuously unifying their students through a variation of activities, like a sporting event.

**e) Recruitment Update**

- i) Ms. Cuellar will be in attendance at the Study Illinois Fair on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> in Chicago. This fair hosts transfer students from different English language training schools and universities. Ms. Cuellar is using College Week Life to hold weekly cyber chats to engage prospective students all over the world and stay in touch with them from the application process all to their arrival on campus. The OISS is working to revamp the International Student Ambassador webpage to engage and connect prospective students with current international students. Dr. Vanesa Landrus suggested including faculty that represent different areas as well if there are not currently students from those regions. Ms. Cuellar is researching emerging markets around the world. One that stands out is Vietnam. EIU currently has four Vietnamese students. There are various fairs in November and Ms. Cuellar is connecting with EIU's Vietnamese students' high schools to speak with their students.

**f) TLC Update**

- i) Ms. Cuellar gave the TLC update on behalf of Ms. Lauren Schuberth. There are currently 26 students in TLC and they are expecting 3-4 new students next week with the new session. TLC will be offering several TOEFL workshops next session. TLC anticipates that the majority of students will start at EIU in the spring depending on TOEFL results. TLC is seeking transportation volunteers to get students to and from the airport. Ms. Cuellar visited the TLC students and Dr. Olausen, Dr. Liu, and Dr. Cheney from Technology will be meeting with them as well in the future. EIU students are invited to visit and to share what's available on campus. Ms. Cuellar invited Mr. Ebede to do so as an AIS representative.  
The EIU English Club invited TLC students to meeting for Speed Conversation in English and there was a good turnout.  
TLC is still looking for homestay families for the November 4 – December 4 session. Ms. Cuellar will send out an e-mail to IEC with homestay information. Dr. Liu suggested organizing field trips for students to explore the area.

**2) Study Abroad: Dr. Kurt Olausen**

**a) Study Abroad Fair Report**

- i) The Study Abroad Fair on September 20 was successful. Students were asked to sign in and the OSA collected 214 names through that which does not fully represent everyone who was there; that was probably between two-thirds and three-fourths of who actually came. Fair attendance is turning into office traffic and ultimately spring 2017 applications.

**b) Passport Caravan Update**

- i) The Passport Caravan is taking place on November 9. There are currently 2 waitlist spots open. Students were given coupons for two free passport photos from Bev Cruse. The response to this has been fantastic. There were a total of 75 open slots and 12 waitlist slots.  
Dr. Polydore asked about the alternative for serving those who want to receive a passport but were not able to sign up. The OSA provides students with passport applications and information on how and where to apply for passports.  
Dr. Landrus asked if it would be possible to have a caravan in the spring. It is sponsored by one of the OSA's partners, CIEE, and they were chosen for this one time. If they tried to host it themselves, it would cost approximately \$10,000. Dr. Hendrickson commended Dr. Olausen for his leadership effort in applying for the Passport Caravan and for engaging CIEE to make this happen.

**c) Spring Programs Enrollment Update**

- i) Today is the deadline for Spring 2017 semester program and scholarship applications. As of this morning, there are 35 viable applications in the system. There may be a few more coming in at the last minute. This is compared to 24

students that went abroad last spring. There are 9 applications for Spring Break 2017.

**d) Faculty-Led Programs Update**

- i) Faculty-led programs are getting closer to being updated and budgeted and ready to take applications. The Multicultural Human Behavior program budget is settled. Students are already looking to apply for these programs.

**e) International Education Week**

- i) The OSA will be tabling in the MLK Jr. Union on Monday through Thursday during IEW. Each day will focus on a different set of programs.
- ii) Admissions hosted an international education-themed College Week Live chat for domestic students this week. Ms. Rachel Lindhart, Dr. Olausen, and Dr. Tom Spencer were online from 6 – 8 PM to talk about OSA and NSE.

**3) Dean's Report: Dr. Ryan Hendrickson**

- a) Dr. Hendrickson welcomed Dr. Willems as an official member of the council elected through Council of Chairs. Dr. Olausen introduced Ms. Maja Dinger as the Study Abroad Representative. Maja is originally from Germany and has studied in Spain, Guatemala, and Austria.

**b) Visiting Scholars Update**

- i) EIU is hosting two visiting scholars this semester: Yaxi Lee, partnered with Chemistry Department, is here until December 23. Dr. Zhe Richard Wang through the Lumpkin College of Business will be here until February 15. Dr. Hendrickson thanked the Lumpkin College of Business and specifically Dean Izadi for providing two new television sets for the rooms where the Visiting Scholars are hosted. The School of Business is working to help furnish and update a third room that is in use as well. Dr. Hendrickson thanked Dr. Willems for his help with that request.

**c) Potential Partnerships**

- i) There continues to be dialogue with the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh. The University of Dhaka brought forth a proposal to send a range of students and have also expressed interested in novel tuition arrangements. They are eager to work with EIU and President David Glassman is interested in pursuing this. Dr. Hendrickson is working with the Legal Counsel, President Glassman and Provost Lord to assess the possibilities in making this work. Dr. Willems shared that he will be attending a research conference at University of Dhaka at the end of the month. He will be discussing 2+2 agreements with Business which is viewed as a potentially positive outlet for partnership; early stages of this process. Dr. Hendrickson is working with the Ivy Group and continues to be in dialogue with Nick Ni, a representative of a number of Chinese universities. Dr. Hendrickson and Mr. Elliott spoke with Jillian and Andy who organize the Education Culture Association for SINO U.S. University Exchanges. They seek to continue dialogue and create a potential agreement. The University of Winchester was on campus two weeks ago and is interested in a deepened partnership with EIU in Kinesiology and Sport Studies. EIU currently has a good exchange program with them and Winchester would like to send more students.

**d) External Transcript Evaluator**

- i) A proposal supported by OISS, the registrar, and academic advising has been put forward that would request international transfer students to have their transcripts evaluated by an external evaluator. This would only impact about 12-15 students each year. The MBA program and Dr. Wollan, Graduate Coordinator for Business Studies, has requested this same process for their students. This would only impact a very small number of the 435 international students but is a good initiative that would save Ms. Thomas the inordinate amount of time it takes to accurately evaluate international transcripts and could be done more expeditiously and expertly for the student through an external source. There

would be a cost for the student of \$160 – \$200. Ms. Thomas added that it would impact those interested in bringing coursework overseas who would ultimately save money in the long run by being able to avoid retaking classes that they have already taken and do not need. It's a good effort to accurately place international students in the academic process sooner. Dr. Hendrickson will keep IEC updated on the process of that proposal. Provost Blair Lord is taking the proposal to the President's Council to be voted upon.

**e) Vitalization**

- i) The Vitalization process is underway after last Thursday's kick-off meeting. Dr. Hendrickson has accepted the position of the Chair of the Task Force Committee. He has attended multiple workgroup meetings and met with Dr. Rick Roberts, chair of the Student Services workgroup. Dr. Hendrickson is going to request that Dr. Roberts' workgroup continue to consider international students as they work forward. As Chair of the Task Force Committee, Dr. Hendrickson welcomes your comments and feedback. One of the major initiatives of the Vitalization project is finding ways to grow enrollment, which includes international students. President Glassman gave Dr. Hendrickson and the OISS a goal of 500 international students for next fall.

**Other Discussion:**

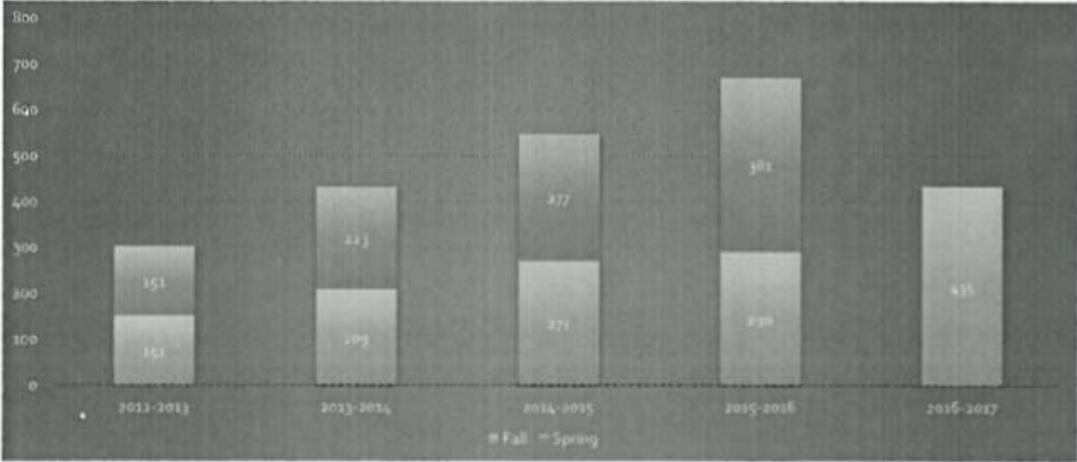
- Dr. Hendrickson shared that the OISS is hoping to implement an "Intent to Attend" box on international student application forms to gauge an estimation of attendance. Ms. Echarial Gaines added that the PRM system within MyEIU does have an "Intent to Enroll" section for prospective domestic students. Freshman do pay an enrollment deposit to commit to attending, which is included as a checklist item and gives them further access to complete enrollment documentation such as housing and meal plans, etc. There is a fee associated with this; Ms. Thomas does not intend to include a fee for "Intent to Attend" for international students but it would help in the final stages to determine expectations for orientation and advising.
- Ms. Thomas told the International Student Scholarship Committee that the international student scholarship applications were due October 1<sup>st</sup>; 600 applications were submitted. Ms. Thomas is working to organize them for the committee. Dr. Willems asked how many can be awarded; there is availability for 25 new undergraduate awards and 29 new graduate awards. This is not including the funds for current students and their scholarships.
- Dr. Polydore announced that there is an International Exhibit in Tarble Arts Center.

**IV. Items Pending**

- a. None

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEXT MEETING  
November 4, 2016  
Blair Hall Conference Room 3108**

# CURRENT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



# CURRENT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

