

Council on International Studies and Programs

Minutes of Meeting

April 13, 2016

I. Welcome of New Members: Approval of Minutes—David Engel

Professor Engel welcomed Dr. Tilman Baumstark, associate vice provost for faculty affairs, as a regular member of Council. Professor Engel requested approval of the minutes for the March meeting. The minutes were approved as distributed.

II. Report on the Heart of the Campus and University Libraries—Austin Booth

Ms. Booth briefed the Council on the Heart of the Campus (HOC), Phase 1 project repurposing the third floor of Capen Hall. The HOC initiative is part of UB's campus master plan to enhance the learning landscape for students and create engaging spaces outside of conventional classrooms for continuous learning and collaborative knowledge creation. Ms. Booth, Scott Weber and Dennis Black form the steering committee for HOC. The initial focus has been on the transformation of Capen 3's library space and the relocation of the remaining print collections in Silverman Library to the long-term storage facility on Rensch Road. It has taken 10 years to fully implement this plan, and it is based on extensive student input. When the Honors College moved into first floor of Capen, this put pressure on the upper library floors. Students expressed their dissatisfaction with third floor study space prompting the movement of the third-floor materials to Lockwood. There were also complaints about outdated facilities and equipment, bad furniture, and the lack of electrical power and access to food and drink.

Libraries are the intellectual hubs of a university. The transformation of Capen 3 sought to provide individual and collaborative learning spaces; media creation and viewing spaces; one-button studios; natural light and natural partitions; a 24/7 environment with highly flexible, technology-enabled space that takes advantage of student technology and allows events and exhibits for larger groups. These spaces are available to university groups to use by advanced reservation. The library will celebrate archival work and student work. Despite the size of the Capen 3 space, lots of natural light will be available, and the space feels safe and secure. There is abundant power and wifi. All told, there is 45,000 square feet and 880 seats, a grand reading room, two digital video production studios; media editing and viewing areas; a cybrary with workstations; a Starbucks café, two 50-seat technology classrooms; casual seating; and 17 study rooms for group work. To meet national standards, UB should be able to seat 12 percent of undergraduates and 30 percent of graduate students in the libraries. The latter are heavy users of library space. Even with the repurposed third floor there's a lack of space. Currently there are 3.5 million visitors per year to the UB Libraries. Presenting the Capen 3 floor plan, Ms. Austin showed the transition from formal to informal spaces, with the café in the middle. There is a "neighborhood" approach to the use of space, which is identified in terms of eras of UB history, e.g. 1960s and 70s-era items and décor. There are neutral earth tones in the interior and bold, bright colors on the outer walls. The furniture designs are Frank Lloyd Wright inspired. The Grand Reading Room is suffused with natural light and decorated with large renderings of archival photos.

Phase 2 of the HOC will consolidate student services across campus including the Student Response Center, Student Accounts, the Registrar, Campus Living, Campus Transportation, Student Life, Conferences and Special Events, and Student Wellness. Students are extremely excited about the reuse of the Capen space. The new Silverman Library is the successor to the Undergraduate Library and will better suit student needs. Professor Dunnett saw the space at its current stage and said it was stunning. He thanked Ms. Booth for consulting international students, and for her leadership in making this project happen. She was able to convince leadership to pursue this vision (a \$7 million project) successfully. Instead of asking for a new library, Ms. Booth saw the possibilities of creative reuse. Capen 3 offers an extremely attractive and welcoming space for international students. Ms. Austin said she was very grateful for the project and the opportunities it affords. The next phase of HOC is expected to involve international education services.

III. Report from the Task Force on International Student Inclusion and Engagement—Peter Biehl

Professor Biehl said how impressed he was by the Heart of the Campus project and the opportunities it affords for the inclusion and engagement of international students within the diverse learning spaces of Capen 3. The work of the task force has also been a major team effort, with many colleagues contributing from across the campus. The current draft of the task force report is a work in progress, with 45 pages of narrative and 100 pages of appendices. The current form reflects the original drafts provided by the various working groups. All CISP members are asked to submit feedback by Monday, April 18. The draft is based on good data from two major surveys and many focus groups. Professor Bunker pointed out that undergraduate and graduate students are treated separately in the report, reflecting the critical differences between these groups. The work of the task force is structured by the four working groups and their reports—undergraduate, graduate, faculty and best practices. Professor Biehl introduced the task force members and reviewed the milestones of their work process. Work began in fall 2014, resulting in a preliminary report in spring 2015.

The first of the two major surveys was the international student survey conducted in May 2015. This had a 32 percent response rate (1220 students). Respondents included students in Singapore. Thus there is ample data to support the observations and recommendations of the report. The survey focused on recruitment/admission, orientation, classroom experience, services, faculty relations, and other dimensions of the student experience. The faculty survey was conducted in March 2016 and yielded a response rate of 22 percent (382 respondents). CAS was the biggest respondent. This survey looked at faculty experiences with international students, the ways they addressed their needs, or not, and engaged them in class. There were focus group interviews in March 2016 involving both undergraduate and graduate students. Professor Biehl summarized the findings. There are two levels of student integration—individual and institutional, and both depend on the student's ethnicity, discipline, and English proficiency. The faculty perspectives help get at what works and doesn't work in the classroom and how successful faculty achieve their success in working with international students—these best practices come from various schools at UB. Success goes beyond the classroom. The report details the various concerns of international students as reflected in the survey and focus groups. Professor Biehl noted the important role of student associations (e.g. the Chinese and Indian student associations) and their involvement in the on-boarding experience—this is a big factor in student adjustment. Students desire

more interactions with domestic students, and do not wish to be segregated; they think domestic students need better preparation to welcome international students. They shared a variety of concerns about their living arrangements and associated costs as well as about opportunities for on-campus employment and field-related internships. A frequently expressed frustration is the differential treatment of undergraduate and graduate students with respect to campus facilities and activities.

Dr. Baumstark provided an overview and analysis of the faculty survey data. He has been assisted in this ongoing work by Lauren Young in Institutional Analysis and Carol Van Zile Tamsen in the Center for Educational Innovation. The faculty survey highlights the importance of international perspectives in the classroom for both faculty and students, and especially domestic students. Some respondents indicate they are not likely to change their pedagogy based on the proportion of international students in their class. Faculty report that in general domestic students do better in class than international students, though this varies by school and program. There is a general impression that more resources are available to domestic students—but is that true? How can the international student experience be enhanced? According to respondents, there is a need for enhanced ESL support, based on perceptions of students' inadequate English. The survey responses indicate the importance of study abroad and encourage domestic travel programs for international students to enhance their study abroad in the US. Half of respondents do change their teaching when there are larger groups of international students in their class.

Professor Biehl reported that Ellen Dussourd and her working group focused on best practices, both at UB and at other universities, including academic support and inclusion, and social inclusion and engagement. For the next two weeks, that group will be looking at other institutions to see what they do and identify other initiatives or best practices that UB might adopt. They will look at orientation programs, peer mentoring, resource guides for international students, and curricular accommodation of diverse educational backgrounds. Other institutional practices include special courses for international students, tutoring support, liaison staff in each decanal unit with responsibility for international students; and promoting diverse perspectives in the classroom. Current experiential learning opportunities need to be better publicized and promoted. The task force is currently working on their recommendations, including budget recommended for new initiatives. Surveys will be fully analyzed to develop recommendations and accompanying budget plan. The task force wanted to conduct a survey of domestic students as well to see what they think about international students and how best to welcome and integrate them. Vice Provost Teri Miller has expressed interest to do a survey of diversity at UB, including international diversity. It is an ongoing challenge to UB to continue the work. Professor Biehl thanked the working groups and Hannah Quaintance, the graduate assistant, for their efforts and hard work. Within the next two weeks the report will be finalized for review by Professor Dunnett. Members should send their comments by next Monday.

Professor Engel thanked Peter and the task force for their outstanding work over the past two years. He said it was always assumed that the Council would vote on the document. That would be premature at this point since the report is still in draft form. An opportunity for further discussion next week may be arranged if that is desired. John Wood will survey members by email as to whether they wish to discuss the draft any further. Professor Bunker inquired about the recommendations and the budget? Professor Biehl will provide those by next Wednesday. Professor Dunnett said that the final recommendations will be critical as

far as the Provost is concerned. His deadline to have the final report is April 30. Professor Dunnett wants to hand the final report in on May 6th at his meeting with the Provost that day. Professor Bunker said that the Council doesn't necessarily need to vote on report since it is a set of recommendations that the Provost will decide upon. This is a CISP-commissioned report and we understand where it is going.

Professor Dunnett said the deans need to be on board since this is a university-wide effort. We need to think in terms of a phased approach, with a multi-year set of prioritized recommendations. Provost recognizes that a long-term endeavor is involved, given that we are looking to grow UB's international enrollment. Professor Dunnett recognizes the problem of reaching international enrollment goals given current circumstances—higher UB costs, low oil prices, a high US dollar, etc. Mr. Wood asked if the Council were entertaining the idea of another meeting. May 2nd is when Professor Biehl will email the full report for the Council to review. Professor Dunnett said he will accept it as is at that point. Professor Biehl suggested members read the report first and then decide about whether another meeting is needed. Professor Engel wants CISP to have the opportunity to weigh in. Professor Bunker agreed that members should read the report and let Mr. Wood know if a meeting is desired for discussion. Professor Dunnett noted that the budget requests are not the critical thing. Professor Engel urged everyone to read the report and let John Wood know if a meeting to discuss it is required. Dr. Baumstark said that faculty survey insights were still being massaged by analyzing survey results. Professor Engel said he was most grateful to Professor Biehl and the members of task force for their great efforts in preparing the report—which is itself a statement of how far UB has already come. Professor Lewis asked if survey can clearly register faculty who already have adjusted their teaching to suit international students. Professor Poon's group focused on international undergraduates who were generally positive about their experiences with faculty. Professor Biehl said that faculty generally are doing a good job but we could do better. There is a need to marry the results of the faculty and student surveys.

IV. Report on the CISP Award Nominations—Lorraine Oak

Dr. Oak was very pleased to present the nomination of Professor Debra Street, chair of Sociology, and is well aware of her international reach and impact, including in Canada-US comparative studies. She is aware of Professor Street's work in Singapore and London—everything from research, education, overseas programs and study abroad. She launched the UB Semester in London program in 2008 right after securing tenure. She as continued to offer this program every year since then. In 2009 she involved SIM students in the program, and now added a winter program in London in 2015. Students are very enthusiastic about her work. A rigorous and productive scholar, Professor Street studies the gendered patterns of decision making in various countries. She is a member of International Sociological Association. She has a forthcoming study *Behind Closed Doors* about sociology in different countries. The letters of support for her nomination were truly outstanding, including the one from Dean Bruce Pitman. She has demonstrated a longstanding and comprehensive commitment to international education. It is an honor to present her nomination. Professor Engel invited comments or questions. Professor Lewis noted that she had wanted to nominate Professor Engel himself, but he refused while he's chair. Professor Engel requested a vote—and there was unanimous support for the award.

V. **Report from the Vice Provost for International Education**—Stephen C. Dunnett

Professor Dunnett noted he had only one item for his report—that is, to recognize David Engel as he concludes his service as chair of the Council. Professor Dunnett said that Professor Bunker, the previous chair, had set a high standard, which Professor Engel has maintained. He has led CISP during a number of consequential changes and leadership transitions at UB. Soon after becoming chair, he led the strategic internationalization planning effort as part of UB2020. The resulting plan and recommendations are still guiding our work. Professor Dunnett pointed out that since internationalization is part of UB2020, the Council can advocate for resources under this strategic plan. Professor Engel has been very effective in making the case to the Provost and building political support for our priorities with the UB leadership in an era of scarce resources. He has also been very helpful in building support in the broader university community for the implementation of our plan. Professor Engel has advanced multiple initiatives—including some low-hanging fruit, like Faculty Internationalization Fund (2009), which continues today, and is now part of the base budget. Since that has started in 2009, we’ve sponsored 80 faculty trips overseas to conduct collaborative activities; many of these have been junior faculty. Professor Engel has helped build support for philanthropic support for international education such as scholarships for study abroad. The President’s Circle Scholarship, now in its third year, is only the leading example. The internationalization of student experience and the effort to recognize international experiences through the Global Scholar Program and then the Significant International Experience are now enshrined in the Global Pathway of the UB Curriculum. The new global learning components in the undergraduate curriculum represent a major step forward. The pending report of the task force is only the latest effort of CISP to internationalize UB, and such efforts help us with our recruitment program. The work of the task force will have a long-term impact resulting in structural support for key CISP initiatives. In short, Professor Engel has had a huge impact on our ongoing internationalization efforts. As he prepares to go on sabbatical this fall, we thank him for his great service as chair over the past nine years. Professor Engel said it was an honor and pleasure to serve as chair of the Council, but he recognizes the need to move on allow someone new to step forward as chair. He learned much from his predecessors, and especially Professor Bunker. It has been a privilege to work with International Education staff has been pleasure. He said he had mixed feelings about stepping down and will miss this role in future. He thanked Professor Dunnett and Mr. Wood as well as all the members for their support and collegiality.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Wood, Secretary

COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND PROGRAMS

Attendance at the Meeting, April 13, 2016

Present:	Dr. Tilman Baumstark	Faculty Affairs
	Dr. Peter Biehl	Anthropology
	Mr. Oscar A. Budde (ex officio)	Immigration Services
	Dr. Barbara B. Bunker	Psychology
	Dr. Stephen C. Dunnett (ex officio)	International Education
	Ms. Ellen Dussourd (ex officio)	International Student & Scholar Services
	Dr. David Engel, Chair	Law
	Dr. David Fertig	Linguistics
	Mr. Christopher Hollister	University Libraries
	Ms. Maria S. Horne	Theatre and Dance
	Dr. Wooksoo Kim	Social Work
	Mr. Wei Loon Leong	Alumni Relations
	Ms. Meredith Kolsky Lewis	Law
	Dr. H. Lorraine Oak	College of Arts and Sciences
	Ms. Mary Odrzywolski (ex officio)	Study Abroad Programs
	Dr. Jessie P.H. Poon	Geography
	Mr. Joseph Schneider	Law School
	Mr. Steven L. Shaw (ex officio)	International Admissions
	Dr. John H. Stone	Public Health and Health Professions
	Dr. Claude E. Welch	Political Science
	Dr. Lillian Williams	African American Studies
	Mr. John J. Wood, Secretary	International Education
	Dr. Jiyuan Yu	Philosophy
Guests:	Ms. H. Austin Booth	University Libraries
	Ms. Hannah Quaintance	Anthropology
Excused:	Dr. Stella Batalama	Electrical Engineering
	Mr. Dennis Black	Student Affairs
	Dr. Janina Brutt-Griffler	Learning and Instruction
	Dr. Yu-Ping Chang	Nursing
	Dr. Colleen Culleton	Romance Languages and Literatures
	Ms. Kathy L. Curtis	English Language Institute
	Dr. Christian Flaugh	Romance Languages and Literatures
	Dr. Graham Hammill	Graduate School
	Dr. Daniel Hess	Architecture and Planning
	Mr. Joseph J. Hindrawan (ex officio)	International Education
	Dr. John T. Ho	Physics
	Dr. Junhao Hong	Communication
	Dr. Shaun Irlam	Comparative Literature
	Dr. EunHee Lee	Asian Studies
	Dr. Patrick McDevitt	History
	Dr. Donald McGuire	Classics
	Dr. Mulchand Patel	Biochemistry
	Dr. Pavani Ram	Epidemiology and Environmental Health
	Dr. Surajit Sen	Physics
	Dr. Othman Shibly	Dental Medicine
	Dr. Natalie Simpson	Management