

**Council on International Studies and Programs**  
**Minutes of the Meeting, April 24, 2019**

**I. Welcome and Approval of the Minutes of the March 2019 Meeting—Peter Biehl, Chair**

Professor Biehl noted that members were welcome to suggest agenda items for the next Council year by emailing him. The draft minutes of the March 2019 meeting were approved without changes.

**II. Report from the Chair—Peter Biehl**

The Memorandum of Understanding with Dortmund Technical University (DTU) has been signed on the UB side and is now on the way to Dortmund for the remaining signatures. There was a recent meeting between Professor Biehl, Dr. Christine Human, Mary Odrzywolski and Danielle LaMarre-Smith of the UB Curriculum, to work on next year's summer program at DTU. They are working toward a more ambitious five-year program for SEAS students incorporating German language studies that would involve study abroad and/or an internship at Dortmund. If this model proves successful, there is room to work with the Romance Language programs for similar mobility opportunities with partners in Europe and elsewhere.

The new impact rankings from Times Higher Education have UB in the top-100, and while the data still must be vetted, it includes a #3 ranking on climate action. There is a report in the UBNOW that further details this accomplishment. This summer Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan will be sending 35 students to UB. This cohort includes students in engineering and arts and sciences. Professors Claude Welch and Walt Hakala have drafted a letter calling on Congressional representatives to support the Paul Simon Study Abroad Bill. Professor Hakala asked if there are guidelines for interested faculty to talk with international colleagues regarding university partnerships. Dr. Wood said that UB is regularly approached by potential partner institutions. He said he would be happy to discuss this subject with Professor Hakala.

Professor Biehl provided an update on the Boldly Buffalo campaign and ideas for supporting international education through philanthropy. There have been several meetings, including with Vice President Grobowski, Wei Loon Leong, Professor Biehl, and Dr. Wood. The tentative theme was coined, "Global Coming Local -- and Local Going Global." "Global Coming Local"—refers to alumni coming back to Buffalo, to include prospective investors, and create opportunities for alumni to visit UB and the WNY region. On the other hand, "Local Going Global" refers to companies and start-ups in Buffalo and WNY that are interested in becoming global. There is also opportunity for study abroad fellowships to be established by international alumni, as well as research fellowships for UB faculty. The next

step is to continue working over summer to draft a proposal with CISP working group to Vice President Grabowski and the University Advancement Team. This working group would then present the proposal to CISP at its first fall 2019 meeting. If members are interested in volunteering, they can send ideas to Professor Biehl, or a note that they want to be part of the working group over summer. Dr. Wood suggested that ideas be vetted through the CISP working group. Professor Stephen Dunnnett suggested that this working group also keep the University Advancement Team abreast of its ideas.

### **III. Report and Discussion: The Foreign Language Crisis at US Universities—David Fertig**

Professor David Fertig of the Department of Linguistics gave a presentation on the recent sharp decline in foreign language enrollments at US campuses that has been reported in the press. He said that while the decline in foreign language programs is serious, it is not necessarily a “crisis,” as the *Chronicle* article that was distributed indicates. Professor Fertig said that everyone should at least be concerned about these language programs and their status at US universities. Simply counting the number of programs is not necessarily a good way to measure language learning and instruction. The article, he continues, is misleading in its interpretation of this metric. Dr. Donald McGuire asked what the article considers a “language program.” Professor Fertig said that means a language is taught at a university. This can be misleading in that a “program” might have only a single student enrolled. Professor Fertig added that most languages that have been eliminated at campuses are not the most commonly taught ones such as French, German, Italian, or Spanish. He believes that these programs are in less commonly taught languages, and not for languages like Chinese, Korean, and Arabic, which have seen substantial growth in recent years. Dr. Wood noted that Thai and Vietnamese were once taught at UB. These programs often rely on a few or only one instructor, and many of the “651 language programs” that ceased to be according to the *Chronicle* could have had this kind of tenuous existence. This decrease might also reflect universities giving new language programs a trial year. Professor Fertig said that of the major languages, German and French programs are facing elimination mainly at the community college and small private college level. Additionally, some institutions are dropping back to Spanish-only offerings. Interestingly, Professor Fertig found an overall declining trend in language programs, abruptly after 2009. Even so, UB’s German program has seen a big decline while its Spanish program has exceeded the total enrollment of any other language. Asian languages at UB have grown tremendously since 2009. Some reasons for these changes include the reduction and elimination of language requirements, the elimination of degree programs, a general trend away from humanities and toward STEM majors, and budget cuts. One potential positive is that there is an increasing number of international students enrolled in different languages for their global pathway requirements. Trevor Poag asked if Professor Fertig had encountered any data on what happens beyond the United States, such as trends in English study abroad. Professor Fertig has not. Dr.

McGuire said that there should soon be data available to examine the effects of the Global Pathway curriculum on UB students. Professor Fertig said the new curriculum seems to be working out for most languages, at least from a Department of Linguistics standpoint. Professor Colleen Culleton says that perhaps CISP should invite Dr. Barbara Avila-Shah of Romance Languages and Literatures to talk about the matter. In one of her presentations, she showed a downward trend for RLL languages corresponding to the implementation of the Global Pathways. Professor Fertig proposed the possibility of following other universities in having a language requirement specifically for BA/BS degrees, or for specific departments. He said it is a common practice, but not at UB. Dr. Wood asked about the removal of foreign language requirements to enhance the enrollment in language programs, and Dr. Hakala says it has not helped. Professor Biehl suggested this could be an institutional problem, and Professor Fertig responded that the decline has many causes. Professor Dunnett agreed, noting that budget cuts often impact foreign language programs first. He said that another issue in higher education is the elimination of various area study programs.

#### **IV. Report from the Interim Vice Provost—John J. Wood**

Dr. Wood invited Mary Odrzywolski, Director of Study Abroad Programs, to report on the most recent study abroad census measuring study abroad participation at UB. Ms. Odrzywolski distributed an infographic illustrating several measures of study abroad activity for fall 2017 through summer 2018, including where students are studying abroad, when they study abroad, their gender and academic level, and the top majors of students going abroad. Approximately 10.5 percent of UB undergraduates are currently studying abroad, with Europe, Asia, Latin American and Oceania being the most popular regions. Women continue to participate more often, with six of ten participants being female. The largest number of students go abroad in summer, followed by the winter session. The top majors are business, engineering, architecture, and psychology and social sciences. It was asked why humanities was not among the top majors. Ms. Odrzywolski said that this wasn't one of the standard census categories. Interestingly, seniors are the most likely to study abroad followed by juniors—indicating the tendency of students to wait too long to plan study abroad.

#### **V. Report from the Awards Committee—Lorraine Oak**

Dr. Oak reported on behalf of the Awards Committee. Two nominees were recommended for the 2019 Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education—Professor Filomena Critelli of the School of Social Work, and Professor Kristin Stapleton of the Department of History. Dr. Oak distributed a report (excerpted below) summarizing the qualifications of each nominee in terms of the specific criteria for the award. The Council voted unanimously to endorse the committee's recommendation.

Since Professor **Filomena Critelli** joined the UB faculty in 2005, she has worked to increase access to international education within the UB community as well as the School of Social Work. As a leading scholar of human/women's rights in Pakistan, she has published widely and enriched her teaching with work published in numerous refereed journals. In 2014, she was awarded an American Institute of Pakistan Studies senior fellowship to study gender-based violence. Filomena presents her research at many international meetings, and this work as well as many contacts and experiences are shared with the UB community through the Gender Institute, Experiential Learning Network, Community for Global Health Equity, Asian Studies Program, and numerous presentations during International Education Week. Within Social Work, she co-directs the Institute for Sustainable Global engagement, and is a founding member of the Global Interest Group that sponsors an international film series. Filomena chaired a symposium on Syrian refugees, developed a course on international social work, and has been a leader in efforts to connect UB faculty members with international partners. The breadth of her international contributions are exemplified by development of online learning with Mexican universities, study abroad leadership in Italy, Dominican Republic, and Brazil, collaboration with colleagues in Kyrgyzstan and Moldova, and her recent child welfare and community development work in Haiti that provides collaborative opportunities for UB students and faculty.

Professor **Kristin Stapleton** joined the UB Department of History in 2007 as director of the Asian Studies Program, quickly raised its profile, and by 2010 became the founding director of the UB Confucius Institute. The Institute had an immediate impact within UB and the larger community where K-12 Chinese language programs were introduced and now thrive in the Buffalo/Niagara schools. She established the Confucius Institute Distinguished Speaker Series, and directed two major conferences. She oversaw the Asian Studies major and minor, organized the Asia at Noon colloquium series, and hosted seven visiting scholars from India, China, and Sri Lanka who were integrated into the education mission. Professor Stapleton has an international reputation as a distinguished scholar and is in demand for speaking engagements and program reviews nationally and internationally; she frequently uses her contacts and reputation to create opportunities for her students. She is known as a highly effective educator who has had a profound impact on K-12 teachers throughout the United States, and mentored many UB undergraduate and graduate students. Her impressive CV lists three fellowships, two current international advisory board appointments, four notable scholarly editorial positions, including Chief Editor of *Twentieth-Century China*, and Executive Secretary of the New York Conference on Asian Studies. She has received five grants to support Asian/South Asian pedagogy, including the initial Confucius Institute funding. Publications include two monographs, one published by Harvard and the other by Stanford, numerous edited volumes, two textbooks with multiple editions, and scholarly articles and presentations too numerous to be listed in the nomination materials.

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**Attendance at the Meeting, April 24, 2019**

Present:	Bruce Acker	Confucius Institute
	Tilman Baumstark	Faculty Affairs
	Peter Biehl, Chair	Anthropology/College of Arts and Sciences
	Yu-Ping Chang	Nursing
	Colleen Culleton	Romance Languages and Literatures
	Stephen C. Dunnett (ex officio)	International Education
	David Fertig	Linguistics
	Walter Hakala	Asian Studies
	Christopher Hollister	University Libraries
	Junhao Hong	Communication
	Christine Human	Engineering and Applied Sciences
	Wei Loon Leong	Alumni Engagement
	Donald McGuire	Classics
	Mary Odrzywolski (ex officio)	Study Abroad Programs
	Muchand Patel	Biochemistry
	Trevor Poag (ex officio)	International Education
	Steven L. Shaw (ex officio)	International Admissions
	Dorothy Siaw-Asamoah	Management
	Katie Tudini (ex officio)	International Student Services
	Lillian S. Williams	Transnational Studies
	John J. Wood (ex officio)	International Education
Excused:	Katharina Azim	Psychology
	Janina Brutt-Griffler	Graduate School of Education
	Oscar Budde (ex officio)	UB Immigration Services
	Filomena Critelli	Social Work
	Kathy L. Curtis	English Language Institute
	David Engel	Law
	Christian Flaugh	Romance Languages and Literature
	Graham Hammill	Graduate School
	Daniel Hess	Architecture and Planning
	Joseph J. Hindrawan (ex officio)	International Enrollment Management
	Maria S. Horne	Theatre and Dance
	Mara Huber	Undergraduate Education
	Shaun Irlam	Comparative Literature
	Meredith Kolsky Lewis	Law
	Zhiqiang Liu	Economics, Confucius Institute
	Lorraine Oak	College of Arts and Sciences
	Jessie P.H. Poon	Geography
	Barbara Ricotta	Student Life
	Othman Shibly	Dental Medicine
	John H. Stone	Public Health and Health Professions
	Lisa Vahapoglu	Community for Global Health Equity
	Claude E. Welch, Jr.	Political Science