

Council on International Studies and Programs

Minutes of Meeting

February 10, 2015

I. Approval of Minutes—David M. Engel

Professor Engel requested comments and corrections to the draft minutes of the December 3, 2014 meeting; none being offered, the minutes were approved as distributed.

II. Report from the Vice Provost for International Education—John J. Wood

Mr. Wood invited Professor Colleen Culleton, Campus Fulbright Director, to report on the current application round. Professor Culleton reported that IIE had selected 5 finalists from among the 21 UB students who applied in fall 2014. Finalists have a generally good chance of receiving grants. Looking forward to the next application cycle, Professor Culleton said she was pleased that already there were 20 potential applicants in the pipeline, and she expects there will be more. To increase the number of Fulbright recipients, UB has to increase the pool of competitive applicants who can begin preparing as early as possible so they develop effective applications. The infrastructure developed with Elizabeth Colucci, who supervises the Office of Nationally Competitive Scholarships and Fellowships, provides better support to UB applicants to Fulbright and other prestigious scholarship programs.

Mr. Wood asked Joseph Hindrawan, Associate Vice Provost and Director of International Enrollment Management, to update the Council on international enrollment for the spring semester. Referring to a handout with enrollment data, Mr. Hindrawan reported that UB enrolled the anticipated number of new students in spring; however, a decline in the number of continuing international graduate students resulted in an overall decrease in international enrollment relative to last spring. This reflects an exceptionally large intake of master's students several semesters ago who are now graduating. International undergraduate enrollment continues to grow, though China is increasingly dominant as the largest sending country. However, despite the large number of Chinese students at both the graduate and undergraduate level, UB is not as dependent on China as some other US universities. It is expected that China will soon overtake India as the largest sender of graduate students. Iran is another country with rapid recent growth; UB now has more than 100 students from Iran, mostly in STEM fields at the graduate level. In a continuing effort to diversify international enrollment, UB recruiters are exploring new markets this spring in Australia and the Baltics. Ms. Ellen Dussourd, Assistant Vice Provost and Director of International Student and Scholar Services, reported that the spring 2015 International Student Orientation welcomed 240 new students. Given the size of the group, a single orientation program served both graduate and undergraduate students. Ms. Dussourd referred members to a poster advertising the "Cinemaspectives" Film and Discussion series for the spring semester.

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

Professor Biehl reported that the task force had had four meetings since being formed late last semester. The group has broad representation from across the university. A great deal of relevant material—from past committees and current research—has been posted on UBLeads to inform the work of the task force. The group arrived at a consensus on the

most suitable name for the task force: the International Student Inclusion and Engagement Task Force. Professor Biehl noted the concerns that UB may be approaching a tipping point with respect to the size of UB's international student population as a percentage of the whole. Too large an international enrollment could backfire, particularly if international students perceive that they are primarily valued as a revenue stream. Six working groups have been set up to explore different dimensions of the broader topic: (1) Recruitment and Admissions; (2) Advising; (3) Curriculum and Learning; (4) Co-Curricular Activities; (5) Student Life and Community; and (6) Alumni and Careers. Thus the task force will be looking at the experience of international students from before they arrive at UB to after they graduate to better understand what UB does well and what it does not do well. Each working group will develop an analysis and a set of recommendations for the entire task force to review. This is a great opportunity to study best practices in the field and adopt them as appropriate. As part of its work, the task force will be working with Institutional Analysis to create a comprehensive survey that will ask students, faculty and staff to provide input on their experience with international students. Professor Biehl asked Council members to send him any relevant articles or research they see that may assist the task force. He said that he is looking forward to providing future reports on the task force's work. Ms. Dussourd pointed out that another university-wide group looking at retention issues would be willing to share its finds with the task force.

IV. Report from International Alumni Engagement—Wei Loon Leong

Mr. Leong thanked the Council for the opportunity to provide a briefing on the work of his office. Since his appointment as Director of International Alumni Engagement last year, he has been busy on a number of fronts to promote international alumni engagement in keeping with the broader mission of the newly renamed Office of Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement. Referring to a handout he provided, Mr. Leong explained that his current efforts have focused on four of the key international alumni chapters—those in China, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore, and especially China and Singapore, where UB is seeing the most rapid alumni growth. Overall, there are 12 international alumni chapters, mostly in Asia. He explained the phases of alumni engagement that begin with the prospect phase, continue while students are at UB, and transition to actual alumni status once they leave UB. Another important distinction for alumni engagement purposes is whether the international alum returns to the home country or stays in the US. One of Mr. Leong's priorities is improving the alumni database by increasing the number of updated international alumni addresses it contains. At present there are 9,174 addressable international alumni in the database—far less than the actual number of international alumni. For the focus chapters, there are 1,031 addresses in China; 169 in Hong Kong; 990 in Singapore; and 505 in Japan. Much work remains to be done in this domain.

Mr. Leong reported on his recent trip to China, where he met with alumni leaders. Mr. Leong previously participated via Skype in a Global Alumni Networking Event held in China. The election of a new president of the chapter in China is pending, following the death last year of Professor Zhou Nanzhao, a distinguished alumnus of GSE. The alumni in China include non-Chinese, like the attorney Tibor Baranski, who have pursued their careers in China and have resided there for a long time. To cite another example, an alumna of the School of Management is an executive with Volkswagen in China. In Singapore, where UB programs at SIM have greatly increased the number of our alumni there, Tharini Iyengar, an SIM program graduate conducted a "Twitter Takeover" event on January 29. Increasing the

number of events that chapters do will increase alumni engagement, particularly in ways that serve the university, e.g. through support for recruitment activities. Raising awareness among alumni remains a big challenge, and this in turn depends on being able to contact more alumni. Alumni engagement begins when students are at UB, and Alumni Engagement is working on remaining in contact with new graduates when they leave UB. Looking forward, Mr. Leong noted that in the near term China and Singapore will remain the focus chapters, while during the next academic year four other chapters will also be priorities—in Canada, India (where a new chapter is to be established), Korea and Taiwan. Despite previous attempts at identifying potential leaders in India, it has been difficult organizing a chapter there due to the fact that many Indian alumni remain in the US.

Professor Engel thanked Mr. Leong for his report and said he was impressed by the efforts so far while appreciating that much remains to be done. He asked about the cultural perception among international alumni—whether they viewed engagement as mostly about socializing and networking, rather than service to the university? Professor Barbara Bunker inquired whether there was a tradition of alumni engagement in Asia. Mr. Leong said that it is very new in Asia and requires nurturing. Japanese universities are farther along in this regard. For example, Meiji University, UB’s partner in Tokyo, made its alumni center available to UB for the 20-City event in Japan last spring. Professor John Ho pointed out that there is a widespread impression among the schools that one cannot get current contact information for alumni from the alumni office. Mr. Leong said that there are other external sources for contact information, including, for example, Linked-In, which is not blocked in China and can be used to track alumni. Ms. Dussourd said that UB’s SEVIS compliance software illustrates how one database can pull information in an ongoing fashion to populate another database.

V. Reports from Directors of New Winter Study Abroad Programs—Mary Odrzywolski

Ms. Mary Odrzywolski, Director of Study Abroad Programs, reported that in the second year of UB’s winter session there was a sizable increase in both the number of study abroad programs offered and the number of students participating. Programs developed for the winter session increased from 8 to 14, with 12 ultimately running. In 2014, 87 students enrolled in UB winter programs, whereas 158 enrolled in UB winter programs in 2015. In addition, 12 UB students enrolled in winter 2015 programs offered by other SUNY institutions, down from 23 who did so in 2014. This reflects the enhanced options and appeal of the UB offerings.

Ms. Odrzywolski welcomed the faculty leaders of two of the new winter programs for 2015. Ms. Jody Kleinberg Biehl, who directs the Journalism Program in the English Department, provided an overview of her program, “Germany: Foreign Reporting in Berlin.” She said that in addition to an assigned reading text and two exams, the academic work of her program involved two major writing assignments—a research piece based on a formal interview with an official or academic in Berlin, and a crafted work of memoir about something in their study abroad experience that moved them and that would be of interest to readers. Some of the resulting student pieces will appear in “The Spectrum” next week. Ms. Biehl noted that five of the section editors for “The Spectrum” participated in the program.

The program entailed significant engagement with the city and its environs. Students participated in a bike tour around the city, exploring the layered history of Berlin. They

visited the remnants of the Nazi and Cold War eras, including the Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, and a GDR guard tower. The group visited the recently restored Reichstag building, and marked the Charlie Hebdo terrorist incident with a visit to the French Embassy in Berlin. They visited the site of a Nazi concentration camp near Berlin. They toured the former Luftwaffe headquarters which has been repurposed for the tax ministry. Their accommodations in a youth hostel located in an old castle afforded classroom space, though some instruction was carried out in cafes around the city. The group met with journalists working in Berlin, including US reporters, at Der Spiegel and at Deutchewelle, and participated in a panel discussion on cybersecurity.

Professor Meredith Lewis of the Law School presented her winter program, “New Zealand: International Economic Law in Context.” The program was hosted by the Victoria University of Wellington Law School in Wellington. Students enjoyed the fine summer weather of January in the Southern Hemisphere and stayed in university accommodations close to the Law School and the Supreme Court of New Zealand. The course in International Economic Law dealt with trade and investment issues, focusing on the differences in the two legal systems. Among local issues that were explored with Wellington colleagues were Maori-settler relations, the sovereignty of parliament, intellectual property, the status and value of traditional knowledge, maritime and shipping issues, trade relations with Australia, international arbitration, and Pacific legal issues. Professor Tony Angelo, who drafted the constitutions for various Pacific island nations, spoke to the group. The students visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as the Supreme Court, and several other ministries. One of the justices of the Supreme Court spent an hour speaking with the group—a rare privilege. The students also had the opportunity to explore local culture, through a Maori welcoming ceremony and cultural excursions. They also visited a wildlife sanctuary and nearby wine region.

A third director’s report—from Professor Maria Horne about her “Culture and Performance Appreciation in London” winter program—was deferred until the March meeting due to lack of time.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Wood, Secretary

COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND PROGRAMS

Attendance at the Meeting, February 10, 2015

Present:

Dr. Peter Biehl	Anthropology
Dr. Janina Brutt-Griffler	Learning and Instruction
Mr. Oscar A. Budde (ex officio)	Immigration Services
Dr. Barbara B. Bunker	Psychology
Dr. Yu-Ping Chang	Nursing
Ms. Kathy L. Curtis	English Language Institute
Dr. Colleen Culleton	Romance Languages and Literatures
Ms. Ellen Dussourd (ex officio)	Intl. Student and Scholar Services
Dr. David Engel, Chair	Law
Dr. David Fertig	Linguistics
Mr. Joseph J. Hindrawan (ex officio)	International Education
Dr. John T. Ho	Physics
Ms. Maria S. Horne	Theatre and Dance
Mr. Wei Loon Leong	Alumni Relations
Dr. Donald McGuire	Undergraduate Education
Dr. H. Lorraine Oak	College of Arts and Sciences
Ms. Mary Odrzywolski (ex officio)	Study Abroad
Dr. Mulchand Patel	Biochemistry
Mr. Joseph Schneider	Law School
Dr. Surajit Sen	Physics
Dr. Othman Shibly	Dental Medicine
Dr. John H. Stone	Public Health and Health Professions
Ms. Margaret Wells	University Libraries
Dr. Lillian Williams	African American Studies
Mr. John J. Wood, Secretary	International Education

Guests:

Ms. Jody Kleinberg Biehl	Journalism Program
Ms. Meredith Lewis	Law School

Excused:

Dr. Stella Batalama	Electrical Engineering
Mr. Dennis Black	Student Affairs
Dr. José F. Buscaglia	Caribbean Studies
Dr. Stephen C. Dunnett (ex officio)	International Education
Dr. Christian Flaugh	Romance Languages and Literatures
Dr. Daniel Hess	Architecture and Planning
Dr. Junhao Hong	Communication
Dr. Shaun Irlam	Comparative Literature
Dr. Wooksoo Kim	Social Work
Dr. EunHee Lee	Asian Studies
Dr. Patrick McDevitt	History
Dr. Jessie P.H. Poon	Geography
Dr. Pavani Ram	Epidemiology and Environmental Health
Mr. Steven L. Shaw (ex officio)	International Admissions
Dr. Natalie Simpson	Management
Dr. Claude E. Welch	Political Science
Dr. Jiyuan Yu	Philosophy