

Council on International Studies and Programs

Minutes of Meeting

February 10, 2016

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

Professor Engel welcomed members back and introduced Professor Cecil Foster, Department of Transnational Studies, who was invited to report on his winter session study abroad program in Barbados. Professor Engel asked for approval of the minutes of the December meeting; the minutes were approved as distributed.

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

Professor Biehl regretted he had to leave early to meet with guests from University of Vilnius, Lithuania. He was pleased to report on the progress of the task force, the first meeting of which would be Friday, February 12. He noted that after meeting at UB with Margaret Heisell, the external consultant for Global Affairs at SUNY System Administration, she invited him to come to UC Berkeley to present on the task force's work and best practices at other institutions. At Berkeley he received very positive feedback as well as follow-up emails from many universities. In particular, audience members are interested in seeing UB's data when it is available. Professor Biehl said he was happy to represent the task group to this external audience. The task force is on schedule to provide its final report by end of April, based on the efforts of the various working groups. Carol Van Zile-Tamsen in the Center for Educational Innovation (CEI) is currently analyzing the data from the survey of international students conducted at the end of the spring 2016 semester. The task force will be conducting a survey of faculty that will be discussed at the upcoming meeting and conducted during spring break. Dr. Tilman Baumstark is assisting with the faculty survey on behalf of the Office of Faculty Affairs. Professor Xiufeng Liu, Director of CEI, will provide a graduate assistant to work with Ms. Van Zile Tamsen on the analysis of this second survey so it can be incorporated into the final report. Other working groups are focusing on undergraduate students and graduate students. Mr. Wei Loon Leong is chairing the resource working group. After spring break, focus groups will be set up with both students and faculty to help understand the data. The final report will present both a set of recommendations and a resource plan. Professor Biehl is extremely grateful to the task force and the chairs of working groups for their hard work. He is looking forward to completing the task force's important report. He plans on offering Council access to the data and information collected on the subject. The draft report will be presented to CISP on Wednesday, April 13, for discussion and feedback. Professor Engel thanked Professor Biehl for his impressive report. Professor Dunnett noted that he had heard about the presentation at Berkeley from colleagues who said it was well received. He suggested Professor Biehl publish a paper on the work and findings of the task force.

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

Professor Dunnett reported on his recent visit to the UB programs in Singapore in January—one of two visits he conducts each year according to the contract with SIM. In part this is to fulfill the quality assurance requirements for the UB-SIM programs, which also

includes visits by the relevant deans and departmental coordinators. During his visit Professor Dunnett evaluates UB staff, renegotiate contracts, and plans for future semesters. He was pleased to report that the program is doing well and that students at SIM outperform students on the home campus academically. This speaks to the high academic standards of the program, and the elite student pool the program attracts. Professor Natalie Simpson said that she has worked with Buffalo and Singapore students side by side in her program and have made comparisons through her Global Access courses. Based on exam scores, participation, and various contests involving different schools, the SIM students come out first consistently.

Mr. Joseph Hindrawan is assisting SIM with their recruitment and admission strategy and activities for the UB programs. Enrollment at SIM has been hurt of late, falling from 1500 in 2014 to 1300 students enrolled currently. One reason for this is that Singapore has provided many more seats in programs at local institutions, including SIM's own UniSIM degree programs. Moreover, the polytechnics in Singapore are now offering more "top-up" degrees in cooperation with foreign partners—increasing the competition with UB's programs. These are all lower-cost programs since they are subsidized by the government. UB-SIM students are well known in the career marketplace, and this helps recruit new students. Communication, Psychology and Business are the three most popular. The smaller, newer programs have survived—Economics and International Trade. In spring 2016 enrollment was down only five percent. Professor Dunnett said that the weakness of the Chinese economy, which is hurting Singapore's, and the appreciation of the US dollar are impacting costs as well as enrollment. Many folks in Singapore are not bullish on the future, saying growth rates in China are lower than what is publicized. There is reason for concern with respect to future enrollment; however, SIM is getting better at recruitment. Some changes may need to be made; perhaps more scholarships will need to be offered. SIM has not asked for any give-backs despite the appreciation of the U.S. dollar. Professor Dunnett met with a Ministry of Education official who said they didn't formerly take interns from foreign programs like UB's; however, they took one from UB's program and were very impressed, so they've recently taken three more. These students are more self-directed and highly motivated than most local students, but they're also more outspoken. SIM students demonstrate excellent communication skills. As it happens, a government minister's son is enrolled currently—a sign of the appeal and status of our program.

IV. Update on the UB Confucius Institute—Jiyuan Yu

Professor Engel welcomed Professor Jiyuan Yu, who was invited to report on UB Confucius Institute plans for 2016 and particularly opportunities for UB faculty and departments. Ms. Maggie Lu, UBCI associate director, joined the meeting as well. Chinese New Year's dumplings were offered as an incentive to cooperate with the UBCI. Professor Yu first highlighted three categories of activities—language and culture support, promoting the academic study of China on campus, and community cultural activities. Professor Yu has worked to enhance the importance of academic programs at UB—this is a major priority. Fourteen local K-12 schools work with UBCI, comprising 4,000 K-12 students. Many of these schools were involved in the recent New Year's Celebration performances at UB. Fifteen UBCI teachers have been placed in K-12 schools, and two visiting professors, one in Chinese Language program and one in the Department of Learning and Instruction to support the new Ed.M. program in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language. There are various opportunities for UB faculty to apply for grants to go to China to do research and

other things. Funding is also available to support academic activities focused on China at UB. There is a lot of flexibility in UBCI offerings, which include a Ph.D. fellowship, a Young Leaders Program for undergraduate seniors or M.A. students wishing to study in China, funding for publishing work related to China, and an international conference grant. UBCI will help faculty prepare the required paperwork.

Professor Yu described some of the other opportunities sponsored by UBCI. Three UB students went to China last year under UBCI sponsorship. Academic symposia and conferences relating to China may also be funded by the Institute. There is a Distinguished Lecture Series—four of a total of eight of these lectures have been scheduled for this year. There is a Dance Residency Program supported by UBCI. The Institute can provide up to \$500 to support the development of new or revised China-focused credit-bearing courses at UB. UBCI is a co-sponsor of International Education Week events relating to China. Funding has been received for the acquisition of Chinese books and media for the UB Libraries. A symposium is planned to honor Professor Dunnnett with the UBCI Confucius Educator Award. The Institute offers a program of visiting professors—that is, invited scholars from Capital Normal University in China, UB’s partner. So far, UBCI is working with the Art and English departments on this initiative. Professor Yu welcomes input from the Council on the Institute’s annual plan; members should send feedback about how UBCI can better serve the university community.

Professor Engel thanked Professor Yu for presenting these great opportunities for UB students and faculty. He asked how the Council can help promote underutilized opportunities to a broader constituency. Professor Dunnnett said he especially appreciates the scholarships for UB students. He thanked Professor Yu for his leadership and for reorienting the mission of the Institute to better support UB. He encouraged CISP members to think about the various opportunities available. He appreciated seeing students from UBCI schools perform at the Chinese at New Year’s celebration. It should be kept in mind what a big change has been effected by UBCI teachers providing Chinese language instruction in Western New York. The new Ed.M. program in teaching Chinese is supported by UBCI for five years. Professor Dunnnett thanked Maggie Lu, who looks after the UBCI teachers and their families, for all her contributions.

V. Report on Winter Session Study Abroad Programs—Mary Odrzywolski

Professor Engel noted that he was inspired to lead his own study abroad program by hearing from other directors at CISP like Professor Maria Horne and Cecil Foster. Sharing their stories is very helpful in encouraging other faculty to consider the opportunity. Ms. Odrzywolski publically thanked Olga Crombie, Assistant Director of Study Abroad, for handling the burden of faculty-led programs, including winter programs, during her maternity leave in the fall. The winter programs were launched in 2014, with 9 programs and 100 students participating. In 2015, 12 programs were offered, with 158 students enrolled. In 2016 there were 10 programs and 134 students enrolled. In addition, there were a number of UB students on other SUNY winter programs, though this number has declined as UB’s programs have become better known. Study Abroad Programs encourages the development of new programs, including those organized by the professional schools. Student enrollment in winter 2016 varied by program—from 5 to 27 students. The program directors deserve a lot of credit as they shoulder a great deal of responsibility.

Professor Horne reported that she and her daughter Chelsea led a program to London integrating culture and performance across various art forms, from dance to theatre to music to architecture. The arts were explored in context. There is a strong pedagogical basis to help students understand the arts and performance; and such experiences are very valuable to students, fostering critical thinking and aesthetic appreciation. The group was housed not far from St. Paul's Cathedral in the City of London. The initial orientation included a presentation by a London Metropolitan police officer. The group did not learn in a classroom but explored London as a living laboratory. In addition to lectures, there were guest speakers. Students chose their own projects. They had a walking tour of Southwark; went backstage at the National Theatre; attended a performances at Covent Garden and St. Martin in the Fields. They did research at the British Museum, and toured the collections of the Tate Modern, National Art and Portrait Galleries. All told they took in eleven performances, including the West End production of *War Horse* with a post-performance critique with Elijah Coleman, a UB alum working in the West End. Among the performances, they saw the Royal Ballet production of "The Nutcracker," "Pericles" at the Sam Wanamaker Theatre; "As You Like It" at the National Theatre; the original *Les Miserables*, in 30th year of production; the "Play that Goes Wrong," worked with West End actors; "La Traviata"; and *Evensong* at St. Paul's. The group undertook an extensive exploration of London itself. They visited Stratford upon Avon and had a lecture on Shakespeare. Another day trip took them to Hampton Court. There was a tour of the Harry Potter studios, and its model of Hogwarts. Professor Horne thanked the Study Abroad and OIE staff for their support.

Professor Horne suggests that the Council consider faculty concerns around pay and taxes as these pertain to faculty-led study abroad programs, and how to recruit more faculty by remediating the issues that prevent faculty from leading programs. Professor Williams asked about the research project at British Museum. Professor Horne said she is moving toward an e-portfolio in anticipation of the UB Curriculum and the integration of study abroad into the global pathways. With a program fee of only \$3,350, which included the cost of admission to all eleven performances, the London program was a great bargain.

Professor Foster discussed the context of his program, beginning with the SUNY System Administration links to the University of the West Indies (UWI), a multi-campus system in the Caribbean which is looking for ways to promote collaboration. Professor Foster is a native of Barbados, where UWI's Cave Hill campus is located, and wanted to share with students the history and culture of the island. The winter session course was in African American Studies—a cognate with American Pluralism for General Education credit. It looked at history in terms of the lived reality of Barbados. Thirteen students signed up for this pilot program. The UWI facilities were very nice, and included newly-built campus housing at Cave Hill, along with the privileges of UWI students on campus. The program sought to immerse students in the local context and included walks through city, lectures at the university, visits to museums like George Washington Museum; visits to the famous caves; and time on the beaches. The course involved a close study of the finances of the island and the importance of tourism; and the relation between tourists and islanders. The students wanted to extend their stay and four ended up having to do so because of the winter storm that delayed their return. The program's Colloquium on Pan Africanism very much engaged the students' interest, as reflected in their program journals. Going forward, the program needs to address some issues—what can UWI offer UB to support the program? This is a question complicated by UWI's financial difficulties. One possibility is to

work with athletic facilities at UWI, and recruit athletes to the program. One of the most moving things for the students was to experience a black-majority society and political leadership; most participants in the program were African or African American. They attended a parade in the capital to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Barbadian independence. Professor Foster recommends continuation of program in the future, and the possible opening of the program to the rest of SUNY.

Professor Engel thanked Professors Horne and Foster for their efforts and encouraged more faculty to lead their own programs.

VI. Announcements

Ms. Ellen Dussourd announced several upcoming events: the annual all-day summit on refugees hosted by the School of Social Work, the Community of Excellence in Global Health Equity Summit on Refugee Health, and the Alison Des Forges Memorial Committee's plans for a symposium in April that will deal with the drivers of the current refugee crisis, particularly in Africa.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Wood, Secretary

COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND PROGRAMS

Attendance at the Meeting, February 10, 2016

Present:	Dr. Stella Batalama	Electrical Engineering
	Dr. Peter Biehl	Anthropology
	Mr. Oscar A. Budde (ex officio)	Immigration Services
	Ms. Kathy L. Curtis	English Language Institute
	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
	Dr. Christian Flaugh	Romance Languages and Literatures
	Dr. Graham Hammill	Graduate School
	Mr. Joseph J. Hindrawan (ex officio)	International Education
	Dr. John T. Ho	Physics
	Dr. Junhao Hong	Communication
	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. Mulchand Patel	Biochemistry
	Dr. Jessie P.H. Poon	Geography
	Dr. Pavani Ram	Epidemiology and Environmental Health
	Mr. Joseph Schneider	Law School
	Dr. Othman Shibly	Dental Medicine
	Dr. Natalie Simpson	Management
	Dr. John H. Stone	Public Health and Health Professions
	Dr. Claude E. Welch	Political Science
	Dr. Lillian Williams	Transnational Studies
	Mr. John J. Wood, Secretary	International Education
	Dr. Jiyuan Yu	Philosophy/Confucius Institute
Guests:	Ms. Olga Crombie	Study Abroad Programs
	Dr. Cecil Foster	Transnational Studies
	Ms. Maggie Lu	Confucius Institute
Excused:	Mr. Dennis Black	Student Affairs
	Dr. Janina Brutt-Griffler	Learning and Instruction
	Dr. Barbara B. Bunker	Psychology
	Dr. Yu-Ping Chang	Nursing
	Dr. Colleen Culleton	Romance Languages and Literatures
	Dr. Daniel Hess	Architecture and Planning
	Dr. Shaun Irlam	Comparative Literature
	Dr. EunHee Lee	Asian Studies
	Dr. Patrick McDevitt	History
	Dr. Donald McGuire	Classics
	Dr. Surajit Sen	Physics
	Mr. Steven L. Shaw (ex officio)	International Admissions
	Ms. Margaret Wells	University Libraries