

Council on International Studies and Programs

Minutes of Meeting

March 11, 2015

I. Approval of Minutes—David M. Engel

Professor Engel requested comments and corrections to the draft minutes of the February 10, 2015 meeting; none being offered, the minutes were approved as amended electronically.

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

Professor Dunnett invited Chris Bragdon, Coordinator of Student Engagement and Inclusion in International Student and Scholar Services, to update the Council on international student integration and inclusion activities. Mr. Bragdon's presentation outlined the guiding principles for the university's initiatives to promote the engagement and inclusion of international students, highlighting the active "hands-on" engagement of students, both international and domestic, the variety of programming and the range of units involved on campus, and the opportunities afforded participating students. He provided a recap of the activities organized in 2014, including UBThisSummer activities, student panels and activities at orientation, the Global Sports Day with Athletics, the UB Amazing Race, the Football Tailgate Party, and the Inclusive Thanksgiving.

Programming for spring 2015 was also summarized, with particular attention paid to the Global 360 Living/Learning Community launch, and BRIDGES (Building Relationships Involving Diverse Groups of Engaged Students). The former initiative is a partnership with the Office of Residential Life and will bring together international and domestic students on a shared floor of Clement Hall dormitory on the South Campus, beginning in fall 2015; this initiative offers programming in the dorm that aims to create an engaging residential community of students with a shared interest in global experiences and issues. BRIDGES is a multifaceted program with activities throughout the semester, at no cost to the students. In spring 2015 the program had 37 active participants (19 international and 18 domestic) who committed to a series of seven collaborative activities beginning with a welcome dinner in February and concluding with a program wrap-up in May. Participating in team-building exercises such as the high ropes course, simulation activities, and community service fostered a much greater level of engagement for all the participants. The challenge is scaling such intensive opportunities for larger numbers of students. At this point most integration activities involve a small percentage of UB's large international student community.

Mr. Bragdon noted that the large international student orientation program in the fall now incorporates more integration activities, including a "Twilight Fun Fest" at the undergraduate orientation that involves the participation of domestic students who provide a warm welcome for new students in an enjoyable and relaxing context. Other ISSS programming aimed at facilitating inclusion also continue. The International Student Mentoring Program in fall semester involved 65 mentors and 130 mentees. "InFocus" programs on topics of current interest typically attract 20-40 participants, and the Cinespectives series, featuring a contemporary film with commentary by a faculty member, is also successful in bringing together international and domestic students.

Mary Odrzywolski, Director of Study Abroad, suggested there should be opportunities to promote inclusion in the classroom and through course work; in particular, the new General Education Program should afford new opportunities to foster inclusion in the classroom.

Professor Dunnett reported on plans for President Tripathi to travel to Panama in early April to present at a forum on higher education for university leaders from throughout the Americas, organized in conjunction with seventh Summit of the Americas that brings together heads of state from 35 nations in the Western Hemisphere. For the first time, Cuba will be participating in the Summit and an anticipated meeting between Raul Castro and Barack Obama is expected to move the two countries closer to normalized diplomatic relations. President Tripathi has been invited to the forum by President Oscar Ramirez of the Technological University of Panama, a UB Ph.D. from the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering. It has been announced that Governor Cuomo plans to conduct a trade mission to Cuba this spring and SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher will be accompanying him. This trip may be premature given that the trade embargo on Cuba is unlikely to be lifted by Congress for some time.

Professor Dunnett noted that later in April the President will be traveling with him to China to participate in yield-enhancement meetings with admitted students in Beijing and Shanghai; these meetings, which should draw large numbers of students, will help persuade admits to enroll at UB. The President will also be visiting the Hanban, the agency of China's Ministry of Education that oversees Confucius institutes, in order to discuss plans for the UB Confucius Institute following the signing of a new agreement between UB and Hanban in fall 2014.

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

Professor Biehl noted that the excellent programming that Chris Bragdon reported on illustrates the important work that needs to be done on a broader scale, to impact many more students. This is one of the questions the task force is grappling with. A number of subcommittees have been established to address various aspects of the problem and will be reporting back soon. The subcommittees will ultimately be preparing components of the task force report to be submitted this spring. Professor Biehl said that the task force is working with Institutional Analysis to develop a survey of international students to be conducted at the end of the spring semester. This will address the lack of good data on international student satisfaction, specifically with regard to their experience of inclusion and engagement. The task force would also like to survey domestic students to learn more about their experience with international students. This would be subsequent to the international student survey. A recent meeting of the task force featured an update on international enrollment trends provided by Steven Shaw, Director of International Admissions, so the group has a better understanding where the students are coming from and where they are enrolling at UB. Professor Dunnett pointed out that senior leadership would be having an enrollment retreat at which plans for the future will be discussed, including the question whether UB should increase its enrollment, which would mean a growth in international enrollment.

IV. Discussion of the Review and Approval Process for the International Experience Track of the Global Integrative Clusters in General Education—John J. Wood

Mr. Wood briefed the Council on the anticipated role of study abroad in the new General Education Program. The Gen Ed committees are now outreaching to the academic units to educate them about the curricular opportunities afforded by the new program so that departments can in good time develop new courses and modify existing ones to suit the program. Thanks to the earlier work of the Council, the new program features a strong global learning component in the Global Integrative Cluster (GIC), a nine-credit requirement that may be fulfilled in three different ways—through campus-based courses that fulfill specific SUNY General Education Requirements (GERs) in an integrative fashion; through the Language Track, with courses in a single foreign language; or through the International Experience Track, a significant study abroad experience fulfilling the cluster requirements. In addition, various combinations of the three options are possible, which, for example, allow students to study abroad for one or two courses and combine them with campus-based courses to complete a GIC. Mr. Wood noted that it was important for the academic units to appreciate the opportunity the GIC affords them for the development of new study abroad programs. One of the simplest options is to develop winter session programs that fulfill cluster requirements in combination with courses taken before and after the session. The campus-based courses in such clusters could provide the preparatory and follow-on learning/reflection that study abroad programs typically lack.

Mr. Wood noted that in addition to developing an efficient process for approving new study abroad programs for the GIC, it was necessary to determine how students can use the large portfolio of existing study abroad programs to fulfill General Education requirements, particularly in the cluster. For students participating in conventional exchange programs at a partner institution, for example, this will entail evaluating the courses completed abroad in an ad hoc basis in terms of how they fulfill Gen Ed requirements and the SUNY GERs. Mr. Wood cited several examples of current programs to illustrate the issues involved in using such programs to earn General Education credit. Some study abroad programs focus on courses in a particular major and thus would not fulfill GIC requirements. Professor David Fertig pointed out that perhaps students who study abroad on these kinds of programs might receive credit for the International Experience Track without fulfilling the SUNY GERs, given that they would have a significant international experience in this fashion. Time did not allow a complete discussion of these issues, and therefore Professor Engel requested that Mr. Wood develop draft recommendations for the International Experience Track that the Council could review at its next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Wood, Secretary

COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND PROGRAMS

Attendance at the Meeting, March 11, 2015

Present:	Dr. Peter Biehl	Anthropology
	Dr. Janina Brutt-Griffler	Learning and Instruction
	Mr. Oscar A. Budde (ex officio)	Immigration Services
	Dr. Yu-Ping Chang	Nursing
	Ms. Kathy L. Curtis	English Language Institute
	Dr. Colleen Culleton	Romance Languages and Literatures
	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. Daniel Hess	Architecture and Planning
	Dr. John T. Ho	Physics
	Dr. Junhao Hong	Communication
	Dr. Wooksoo Kim	Social Work
	Dr. EunHee Lee	Asian Studies
	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. Steven L. Shaw (ex officio)	International Admissions
	Dr. Natalie Simpson	Management
	Dr. Lillian Williams	African American Studies
	Mr. John J. Wood, Secretary	International Education
Guests:	Mr. Chris Bragdon	International Student & Scholar Services
	Ms. Jessica Scates	Global Health Initiatives
Excused:	Dr. Stella Batalama	Electrical Engineering
	Mr. Dennis Black	Student Affairs
	Dr. Barbara B. Bunker	Psychology
	Dr. José F. Buscaglia	Caribbean Studies
	Mr. Joseph J. Hindrawan (ex officio)	International Education
	Ms. Maria S. Horne	Theatre and Dance
	Dr. Shaun Irlam	Comparative Literature
	Dr. Patrick McDevitt	History
	Dr. Jessie P.H. Poon	Geography
	Dr. Pavani Ram	Epidemiology and Environmental Health
	Mr. Joseph Schneider	Law School
	Dr. Surajit Sen	Physics
	Dr. Othman Shibly	Dental Medicine
	Dr. John H. Stone	Public Health and Health Professions
	Dr. Claude E. Welch	Political Science
	Ms. Margaret Wells	University Libraries
	Dr. Jiyuan Yu	Philosophy