

Council on International Studies and Programs
Minutes of the Meeting, March 27, 2019

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

Professor Peter Biehl noted that he had initially invited Vice President for Research and Economic Development Venu Govindaraju to the meeting, but Dr. Govindaraju was not able to attend due to a family emergency back in India. On his behalf, Dr. Kenneth Trampusch, the Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Economic Development, would be attending to discuss international research. At the next CISP meeting, Professor David Fertig of the Department of Linguistics will update the Council on the current state of language programs. Over the past 6 years, 680 foreign languages programs have closed at colleges and universities across the US. The minutes from the meeting on February 13, 2019 were approved as distributed.

II. Report from the Chair—Peter Biehl

Professor Biehl reported that he and Dr. Christine Human had been invited to visit TU Dortmund University (TUD) in Germany as a follow up to the Sister-City visit by a delegation from Dortmund last year. Their recent visit included a tour of TUD schools and institutes, classrooms, labs, and the [Fraunhofer Institute](#), Europe's largest applied-research organization. The visit focused on a discussion of a proposed collaborative program with Dortmund, based on a University of Rhode Island model, which would send UB engineering students to study in Dortmund for a year after they had studied sufficient German language at UB. The fall semester of the academic year at TUD would be used to fulfill general education courses, and the spring semester to complete an internship at one of biggest industrial parks in Germany, the Fraunhofer Institute or other companies in the Ruhr region. As part of the exchange, the program would send Dortmund students to Buffalo. In October 2019, there will be a conference in New York City, the Renaissance of the Ruhr and the Rustbelt.

Dr. John Wood and Mary Odrzywolski, Director of Study Abroad, have reviewed the initial UB-Dortmund exchange agreement, which will be signed in the near future; initially, this will allow UB exchange students to study in Dortmund's summer programs offered in English. Professor Biehl thanked Professor Fertig and his department for help in identifying the German language courses that would align with the engineering curriculum for the program. He also thanked Professor Human for developing the course program for the engineering students. Participating students would learn German for six semesters. If students are not fluent in the language, they have the opportunity to take general education classes in an English-taught classroom during their fall semester at TUD. If this pilot program is successful, faculty may identify other universities in France (e.g. Troyes) and Spain (e.g. Tarragona) to continue similar programs with a language component. Dr. Biehl hopes this program can begin in 2020. He says the Dortmund administration will try to connect with the conference in New York in October.

Dr. Human pointed out that the internships would take place during the TU Dortmund University spring term (April-July), and be mostly research-oriented. Students would remain

enrolled at Dortmund University during the internships. Professor Biehl added that the “Dortmund Double” program pairs international students with local Dortmund students for orientation and acculturation. Professor Walter Hakala asked about the range of program offerings, as TU Dortmund University is more a technical university. Professor Biehl said the university has 16 faculties/schools including programs of Arts and Sciences as well as Architecture. He pointed out that TUD is also a part of the Ruhr Alliance (with two other universities). Graduate students and post-docs are able to apply for a one-year Ruhr Fellowship funding research at a Ruhr Alliance university. Dr. Wood asked if there would be specific language requirements for the students who choose to participate in this program. Professor Fertig said the department would use regular course that should integrate with the UB-Dortmund curricula nicely. Professor Biehl said he would keep the Council updated on the program’s next steps.

III. Report from the Interim Vice Provost—John J. Wood

Katie Tudini, Assistant Vice Provost and Director of International Student Services, reported that her office is partnering with Career Services to combine career readiness and general immigration sessions to offer students a more comprehensive preparation for employment opportunities available to them. First, the partnership is tailoring information to different departments and groups, and second, it has created general workshops that students can come to on topics like internships with CPT, general job searches, and job search workshops with OPT. Tudini says the International Student Services has also joined UB’s career fair as a resource for international students. At the spring fair, Tudini prepared students for the conversations they were about to have with potential future employers. Overall, ISS had two purposes at the spring career fair: first, to be accessible to students and second, to talk to companies before the fair began about their willingness to hire international students. After learning they could hire international students without initially sponsoring them for work visas, many of the employers were interested in considering these students. Tudini also talked to students about how to frame their career goals when speaking to prospective employers.

ISS wants to continue the collaboration with Career Services, potentially putting together a professional development series to help students with key competencies: interpersonal, communication, self-awareness, critical thinking, etc. ISS has also started conversations with the School of Management and their Career Resource Center. Current pilot testing is being conducted to see what students actually want to see in this kind of programming. Ms. Tudini said they would most likely continue the pilot sessions for fall semester. All of this will be used as platform to determine with departments what their students need specifically, and to make sure these departments work with ISS on the immigration considerations. An example of this programming is bringing career counselor Marcelo Barros to campus. She added that international students heavily utilize Career Services, yet the professionals in Career Services think they are not fully prepared to cater to their needs. Dr. Wood said that one recommendation of the Inclusion and Engagement Task Force was to increase the number of staff members in Career Services, and have people trained to address international student needs. He notes that if that is impossible, then ISS can assist to partially fill the gap in training. Professor Biehl asked whether ISS could help track the successes of international students, which would be useful in UB’s recruitment material. She said that ISS has data from STEM students for up to 3 years, about students’ employment history and access to work visas. This data will help ISS and Career Services adjust their outreach. Ms. Tudini says

she is happy to help with data for recruitment or retention. Dr. Wood asked if ISS has a sense of how many companies outside Western New York are employing UB international students. She said that a majority of students are leaving the WNY area due to superior opportunities elsewhere.

International Student Inclusion & Engagement Program Coordinator Caitlin Rioux spent the previous week in Washington D.C., serving as a constituent for Erie County, District 26 in international education advocacy efforts organized by NAFSA: Association of International Educators. She did not represent UB as such, but it was a great opportunity for her to learn what the government is doing regarding international education policies of current concern. There were 16 other Western New Yorkers there, who all met with staffers from the offices of Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Chuck Schumer, and of U.S. Representative Brian Higgins. Ms. Rioux's group was given a one-day training program before their meetings on Capitol Hill. There were two issues of concern—study abroad and international students. The Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program legislation aims to boost study abroad participation rates to achieve a goal of 1 million US students enrolled in study abroad annually. Nationally, less than 2% of enrolled students study abroad in a given year, though New York State's rate is slightly higher, at 2.11%. Second, the bill hopes to make the study abroad students more representative of the diversity of US higher education. Third, the bill aims to push students to study in more diverse regions of the world. Lastly, the bill wants to support study abroad scholarship initiatives at the institution level, rather than at the individual level. Ms. Rioux and the other constituents asked the Congressional representatives to be co-sponsors of this legislation.

There was no specific “ask” about international students, but NAFSA offered extensive data about the economic impact international students have on their host institutions and communities. For every seven international students enrolled three US jobs are created. As much legislative advocacy is now happening on social media, Ms. Rioux and the other constituents have asked representatives to Tweet about the benefits of enrolling international students. Since the 2016-17 academic year, international enrollment in our congressional district is down 1.8%. Ms. Rioux asked members of CISP to help advocate for international students by sending her personal success stories of their international students. She said that enrollment of new international students has declined by 5.5% nationally. However, enrollments from China and Canada are rising.

Dr. Wood asked if the current tensions with China were part of the discussions. Ms. Rioux said that that topic was not addressed. Professor Hakala asked the difference between the Paul Simon Act and the already implemented initiatives like the Gilman Scholarship, and if it is implemented, how people at UB might take advantage of that. He also asked if any Ms. Rioux was looking for success stories about study abroad. She noted that the Paul Simon Program focuses on incentivizing institutions to create initiatives, rather than grants for individual students. Dr. Wood added that the Simon legislation would be difficult to get passed in the current environments. Professor Dunnett added that he was part of the first commission to work on the Paul Simon Act, but it never received the support it needed. Dr. Dunnett said this is a low priority for the current government. Professor Hakala asked if CISP, as a body, should participate in any way to advocate for this program. Professor Dunnett replied that UB belongs to two associations advocating for the Simon bill, and that we can continue using the personal stories about study abroad experiences to further advocate for the legislation. Professor Claude Welch asked if it would make a difference if

CISP spoke on behalf of the university, possibly by writing to Congressional representatives. Professor Dunnett said this was a good idea and that they are generally friendly to international education. Professor Welch said that he would help draft a letter on behalf of CISP. Professor Biehl suggested drafting something by the following week if possible. Professors Hakala and Welch will work on the draft as soon as possible, and will circulate it to the council members. Professor Meredith Lewis asked Ms. Rioux if NAFSA focused on specific districts, or whether they looked at the state as a whole, regarding schools. Kolsky Lewis says that perhaps if SUNY as a whole weighed in, the message would be more impactful. Dr. Wood added that there are SUNY lobbyists in Washington D.C.

IV. Discussion: Boldly Buffalo: An International Strategy

Professor Biehl reported that in response to Vice President Grabowski's request he is putting together ideas for fundraising for international education as part of Boldly Buffalo. He encouraged members to suggest ideas to him via email.

V. Conversation about International Research with Dr. Kenneth Tramposch, Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Economic Development

Professor Biehl introduced Dr. Tramposch, who was speaking on behalf of Vice President Govindaraju about international research activities at UB. His presentation, titled "International Research Showcase," highlighted a number of major research initiatives in which UB collaborates with international partners, often as part of a large consortium receiving large grants. UB has an impressive record in research, with more than \$400 million in research expenditures reported to the National Science Foundation, most of it in the life sciences. He noted some of the barriers to international research and some of the opportunities. He reported that large grants typically address 21st century problems or challenges through a multidisciplinary approach. Among the projects described were BioXFEL, a \$25 million NSF-funded multi-institutional center using x-ray lasers to better characterize life processes at the molecular level. This project involves collaborators in Japan, Korea, Germany and Switzerland. The Buffalo Protocol for treating sports concussions is the widely adopted standard based on ten years of research in evidence-based medicine. The IDEa Center focusing on inclusive design and environmental access has a major partnership with the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute in Canada. UB is part of a number of major studies of cancer involving Chinese partners looking at environmental causes. For many years, UB has partnered with the University of Zimbabwe on an HIV research training program supported by NIH Fogarty International Center. The Community for Global Health Equity is working with local partners in several developing countries to promote improved hygiene and sanitation. The UB Food Systems Lab has created the world's first searchable global database of food systems policies. Dr. Tramposch also highlighted some of the longstanding research connections in Canada around climate change, border security, aging populations, and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Following the presentation was a discussion of some of the challenges facing faculty interested in international research, particularly around compliance requirements. Professor Biehl suggested that Dr. Tramposch's office evaluates opportunities in the European Horizon 2020 program, which provides 18 billion Euros for research and can now involve external partners outside the EU.

Council on International Studies and Programs

Attendance, March 27, 2019

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