

Council on International Studies and Programs

Minutes of Meeting

November 5, 2014

I. Approval of Minutes—David M. Engel

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

II. Task Force on Integration of International Students as an Institution-wide Mandate

Professor Engel noted that Provost Zukoski requested the Council's input on two major initiatives relating to Realizing UB 2020. The first is the reform of General Education, and specifically the Significant International Experience proposal, now incorporated into the new General Education program proposal. The second is the inclusion and integration of international students as a university-wide responsibility. The Provost has asked CISP to form a task force to address this second challenge. Its mandate is not only to do fact finding but also to recommend a plan of action. A final report with recommendations is requested by June 2015. Professor Engel said that he was very pleased to announce that Professor Peter Biehl, Chair of Anthropology, has generously agreed to serve as the task force chair.

Professor Biehl was invited to say a few words. He thanked Professors Engel and Dunnett for the opportunity, noting he was very gratified by his experience working on the General Education process. He thanked Professor Barbara Bunker, who chaired the International Student Committee of CISP, for the excellent and thorough work of that committee, as reflected in their reports over several years. Clearly, the issues involved continue to be a concern and to some extent have become more challenging. Professor Biehl noted his own experience as an international student in France and the transformative effect that experience had on him. Living in an international house allowed him the opportunity to establish close friendships that continue to this day. He said that the task force included Council members and a variety of other faculty and staff from across the university with relevant expertise and interests. It is anticipated that the task force will meet every other week, initially focusing on assessing the current situation and then in spring developing recommendations subject to CISP review and approval. It would be helpful to have a comprehensive view of what the units are doing currently and the associated resources involved. Professor Biehl encouraged CISP members to send him any materials relevant to international student inclusion and integration that might assist the task force's work.

Ellen Dussourd, director of ISSS, recommended that best practices at campuses like Minnesota, Ohio State and NYU be considered by the task force. There is a lot of good information about best practices already available. Professor Wooksoo Kim of Social Work inquired whether the task force would review current efforts at UB, particularly by the units? Jessica Scates, representing Professor Pavani Ram of Global Health Initiatives, asked if the task force would have student representation; this might help assure greater student buy-in for the recommendations. Professor Biehl said that international students would be consulted through focus groups, as this will allow a greater variety of student perspectives to be taken into account. Joe Schneider of the Law School agreed that student input would be helpful in gauging the effectiveness of current integration efforts. Professor Bunker pointed out that the work of the International Student Committee was now several years old and will

need to be updated, particularly in terms of what the individual units are doing. The distribution of international students should be kept in mind since some programs are up to 90+ percent international, while others have few or no international students. For the highly impacted programs, the question is really how to integrate the small minority of US students?

Professor Engel asked to what extent teaching is impacted by the high percentage of international students. Professor Daniel Hess of Architecture and Planning pointed out that their school has a “built-in” approach based on studio courses which oblige students to work long hours together. Dr. Lorraine Oak of the College of Arts and Sciences said that in her experience with graduate assistants much depends on the cultural background of the students in influencing their openness to integration. Professor Bunker said that in her Cross-Cultural Psychology courses, which tend to be very diverse and include recent immigrants as well as international students, there are appealing opportunities for explore their cross-cultural perspectives. In other courses such an opportunity may not be realized. Professor Kim said that she had heard complaints from students that they felt segregated in their dormitories. Ms. Dussourd observed that since international students are assigned to “break dorms” which remain open during holiday and vacation breaks, they can tend to be housed with other international students. She noted that many international students want an American roommate until they have one. Often the expectation and the reality don’t align. Professor Biehl agreed that the relative isolation of some groups of international students remains a major challenge. He said that the new General Education program offers new curricular opportunities to enhance cross-cultural learning and engagement, and promote greater cultural sensitivity.

Can the best practices identified in other university settings be applied here? We would look at what other universities do and how best practices might fit here. Perhaps it would be useful to look into programs such as the Peace Corps or national exchange programs to see if they have programming that we can use here. Professor Culleton stated that the Academies have 15% international students and a high percentage of underrepresented domestic students. They try to think of what group will have difficulties finding a home base. The integration of international students is built into their process through their activities such as problem solving, and for every major event they invite their students. Their events are meant to reiterate what students have already heard. The Academies have also increased the premium on civic engagement and bringing students into the community. They have the developed activities which lead students to explore beyond their comfort zone. Professor Culleton also stated that some of the academies programming may be looked at when looking at the best practices. Programs for one group can work for all. This should apply not only to international students but to all students. Another point mentioned that many domestic students are working part time jobs so they can’t be on campus as often. Perhaps it would be possible to link international students with community or on campus jobs to see what the life of a domestic student is like. We would need to be creative.

It is important to note that location influences behavior when importing practices from other universities. A commuter campus is very different from a residential campus and practices may not translate between different types of campuses. Professor Poon stated that we need to look at other variable too. Departments are different as are classes at different levels. When a class is large there is no opportunity for group work. Also the different disciplines lend themselves better to different activities. It was stated that they noticed when

Asian students were partnered with Asian-American students the relationship was better than when they were partnered with white students. Other variables discussed were graduate versus undergraduate students and that there are more international graduate students than undergrads. We need to be sensitive to differences. Scaling and scheduling is very important. This needs to be fine tuned as each school is different. All schools need to be represented. Don't overlook the power of place, students should feel they belong to a place. The place provides for a reason to come together. When students feel like they belong somewhere it helps jump start programs.

Professor John Stone spoke of language houses. Some universities have dormitories where they only speak one language. Both domestic and international students live there. The beauty is the domestic students come in contact with native speakers on a daily basis. Everyone is expected to use the language when they are in the dorms. It was stated they are not sure if it would alleviate all problems of integration but it may make a dent.

It was stated that drawing conclusions about process may be more successful than best practices. Integration and internationalization is a two way street, just a broader problem. Mr. Joe Schneider stated he was at an Education USA forum which discussed preparing international students for US universities. He asked to what extent do we prepare domestic students to be with international students. How do we prepare them to meet each other? A lot of domestic students are taken aback by seeing how many international students are here. Professor Dunnett related that when he was meeting with the greek fraternities, they asked him why there were so many international students here. They were not hostile but they were also not prepared to learn in multi-cultural classes. Professor Dunnett stated that he has also received complaints from faculty stating there are enough international students here and we can stop bringing them in. Sadly this complaint is from older faculty who may feel that their UB has changed. It was stated that the first bullet should also contain getting faculty aware of the opportunities of having a diverse student body.

Issue for task force: To get the department and faculty to buy into inclusion and integration and not just make it the job of the Office of International Education. The departments have a responsibility to integrate students on campus. We need to get the community to understand this is good, that it enriches the campus. When recruits go out and sell UB they tell potential students that they will get more than just an education in the classroom. There is a wide variety of experiences. Within the department there is a concern in the classroom but not for what happens extracurricular. The departments need to become more involved both in and out of the classroom.

Dr. Oak stated as a parent in the community, people ask questions about UB and there is a perception that international students take the place of domestic student which results in resentment towards international students. This is one of the reasons to stay away from UB, because foreigners get all the "goodies". This is a definite perception in the community. Professor Dunnett stated that the university is worried about their domestic enrollment targets. Qualified Americans are not applying to take those seats. Professor Shibly spoke about the school of dentistry and complaints about the number of international students. He stated that all the students in the department are qualified and the full tuition that international students pay helps to subsidize other programs as well as the tuition of domestic students. It was stated that the focus groups should also include domestic

students. Resentment is not only toward international students, there is also community fall back on International faculty.

Ms. Mary Odrzywolski, director of Study Abroad Programs, reported that her office would pilot a program this Spring incorporating students coming back from studying abroad and freshman international students. The returning students will speak about their experiences abroad, and address shared experiences with students who are in the United States for the first time. Ms. Odrzywolski hopes that pulling these students together will help foster relationships. They will pair up international students with study abroad students from that country. They already do something like this for pre-departure. It will be a three-hour meeting but it is a step in the right direction.

Professor Engel stated to let him know if anyone has any ideas on how CISP can help. This is a high priority for this year. Anyone interested in joining the task force should let Peter Biehl or John Wood know. The composition of the committee is not set. He also thanked those who already agreed to sit on the committee.

III. Report from the Vice Provost—Stephen C. Dunnett

Professor Dunnett invited Professor Culleton to give an update on Fulbright. She stated they received 21 applications which is an increase from the 16 that were received last year. Elizabeth Calucci, who directs the Fellowships and Scholarships office, is making Fulbright a priority. She is working on generating interest in Fulbright, recruitment and working on applications earlier in the year. Professor Culleton passed out the flyer for a Panel on Fulbright. Former Fulbright recipients and foreign nationals will be on the panel to give students an idea what it entails, motivation to apply and the long term impact of receiving a Fulbright. They will also discuss the application process with a reception at the end of the day. Professor Dunnett will give the opening remarks. Professor Culleton said the remarks are geared for students but the information can be useful for faculty that does advisement and recruitment.

Professor Dunnett said that International Education week has a wonderful program planned. The theme this year is sustainability in a global context. Ms. Dussourd stated they are gearing IEW to be a more campus-wide initiative and developing good partnerships. There are four keynote events planned around sustainability: a lecture, film with a commentary provided by two local community members, student presentations and tours of Greiner Hall. There will only be two tours of Greiner Hall with a limit of 15 people on each tour. If you are interested, please sign up soon. This year there will be a World Bazaar along with the Study Abroad Photo contest. Ms. Dussourd expressed thanks to everyone who is offering a session and who works with International Education. Ms. Dussourd also followed up on the Inclusive Thanksgiving Program. Everyone should have received an email regarding this program. It is hoped that this will help enhance international student integration. Anyone willing to be a host family can apply on line and get matched with an international student (s). Although she has received a very modest response this year, she hopes it will grow in future years. Ms. Dussourd expressed gratitude to Professor Teresa Miller, Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion, for their support of the program.

Ms. Odrzywolski reported on Winter Session study abroad programs. This is the second winter session during which UB has offered such programs. Last year UB sent 100 students

abroad for the winter session and this year 153 students have already signed up. There are a handful of students signed up from other schools, but the majority of students are from UB. Originally they had 14 programs but two were cancelled due to low enrollment—the programs to Moldova and Barbados. We have students going to Belize, Berlin, China, Hong Kong, Tanzania, France, Italy, London, Turkey and New Zealand. Professor Lillian Williams asked what level of funding is available to students. Ms. Odrzywolski stated that there are 9 scholarships available through the Study Abroad Office. The Office of International Education offers a \$500 scholarship for a UB students going abroad for a short period, and there are other general scholarships, such as the President's Circle and one from Asian Studies. The amounts vary. Students are encouraged not to depend on scholarships. It was asked how much it costs to participate. The cost varies by location. The program fees are between \$3,000 and \$6,000 for the Winter Program but air fare, meals and incidentals are not included in the program fees.

Professor Dunnett reported that UB has successfully negotiated the Confucius Institute's contract renewal for another 5 years. The contract was revised to address the concerns of the Hanban. UB will benefit from additional resources from Hanban. The CI will fund a masters in teaching Chinese as a foreign language and provide a Chinese librarian. The number of scholarships has tripled to approximately 50. A visiting scholar will be provided for the College of Arts and Sciences. UB is expanding the number of teachers it places in local high schools. At present, UB cannot accommodate the number of requests received for Chinese teachers. Professor Dunnett attributed the credit to the new Director, Professor Jiyuan Yu, who is highly respected in China. Professor Dunnett also reported that the CI will move into new, more spacious quarters, hopefully by the end of the semester.

Professor Dunnett reported that the president of Western University visited UB last week. Western affords the opportunity to send UB students to Canada to fulfill part of their Global Cluster in the new Gen Ed Program. They are eager to receive UB students there. Western University is comparable in many ways to UB. They are ranked well, have similar programs in STEM, have a College of Arts and Sciences, and a medical school. UB and Western are now negotiating a comprehensive agreement with some money for visiting scholars and scholarships.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Wood, Secretary
with the assistance of Marlies Borzynski

COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND PROGRAMS

Attendance at the Meeting, November 5, 2014

Present:	Dr. Stella Batalama Dr. Peter Biehl Mr. Oscar A. Budde (ex officio) Dr. Barbara B. Bunker Dr. Colleen Culleton Dr. Stephen C. Dunnett (ex officio) Ms. Ellen Dussourd (ex officio) Dr. David Engel, Chair Dr. Daniel Hess Mr. Joseph J. Hindrawan (ex officio) Dr. John T. Ho Dr. Shaun Irlam Dr. Wooksoo Kim Dr. EunHee Lee Mr. Wei Loon Leong Dr. H. Lorraine Oak Ms. Mary Odrzywolski (ex officio) Dr. Jessie P.H. Poon Mr. Joseph Schneider Dr. Surajit Sen Dr. Othman Shibly Dr. Natalie Simpson Dr. John H. Stone Ms. Margaret Wells Dr. Lillian Williams Mr. John J. Wood, Secretary Dr. Jiyuan Yu	Electrical Engineering Anthropology Immigration Services Psychology Romance Languages and Literatures International Education Intl. Student and Scholar Services Law Architecture and Planning International Education Physics Comparative Literature Social Work Asian Studies Alumni Relations College of Arts and Sciences Study Abroad Geography Law School Physics Dental Medicine Management Public Health and Health Professions University Libraries African American Studies International Education Philosophy
Guests:	Ms. Jessica Scates	Global Health Initiatives
Excused:	Mr. Dennis Black Dr. Janina Brutt-Griffler Dr. José F. Buscaglia Dr. Yu-Ping Chang Ms. Kathy L. Curtis Dr. David Fertig Dr. Christian Flaugh Dr. Junhao Hong Ms. Maria S. Horne Dr. Patrick McDevitt Dr. Donald McGuire Dr. Mulchand Patel Dr. Pavani Ram Mr. Steven L. Shaw (ex officio) Dr. Claude E. Welch	Student Affairs Learning and Instruction Caribbean Studies Nursing English Language Institute Linguistics Romance Languages and Literatures Communication Theatre and Dance History Undergraduate Education Biochemistry Epidemiology and Environmental Health International Admissions Political Science