

Council on International Studies and Programs

Nov. 28, 2018

I. Welcome and Approval of the Minutes of the October 2018 Meeting—John Wood

Professor Biehl could not attend the CISP meeting due to a commitment out of town. One new CISP member was welcomed: Barbara Ricotta, Dean of Students in Student Life. The special guests from the Graduate School of Education were Professor Suzanne Rosenblith, Dean, accompanied by CISP Member, Professor Janina Brutt-Griffler. The draft minutes for the previous CISP meeting, October 24, 2018, were approved as distributed.

II. A Conversation with Professor Suzanne Rosenblith, Dean of the Graduate School of Education (GSE)

Dean Rosenblith mentioned that a majority of GSE students are part-time, seeking an additional credential. She also said that the GSE has a larger reach than typical graduate programs since there are many course offerings online. However, the GSE sees limitations in its ability to be involved internationally. For example, studying abroad is nearly impossible for GSE students because many students work full-time, among other reasons. Dean Rosenblith also noted the drop in international enrollment this year—that while the GSE's total enrollment is up about 1%, its international enrollment is down 31%, which is something to be looked into.

Dean Rosenblith noted the importance of international and language programs to the school, which is why Professor Janina Brutt-Griffler has been appointed as Associate Dean for International Education and Language Programs within GSE. Brutt-Griffler will address structural issues affecting international enrollment in GSE, as well as international student inclusion and success. In addition, GSE is seeking ways to expand the English Language Institute (ELI), as well as assessing how the ELI can better serve international students on campus.

Dean Rosenblith says that one possible way to better address the needs of multilingual students in Buffalo public schools is through micro-credentials in these areas for school administrators. With regard to research and policy, the Center for Comparative and Global Studies, directed by Dr. Brutt-Griffler, aims to become a clearinghouse for research as it relates to education. Other considerations of Dr. Brutt-Griffler's include adopting a student ambassadors program to help with recruitment, and fostering relationships with other universities to promote exchanges.

Dr. Wood asked about the substantial decline in international enrollment. Dr. Brutt-Griffler explained that they have seen a decline over the past three years, but this year was dramatic (enrollment of Korean students declined; TESOL, which is the second major program in the GSE, also saw a huge drop). Dr. Wood also recognized the steady decline in enrollment from Korean students, and added that enrollment from China is getting softer.

Professor Brutt-Griffler says she is looking at ways to strengthen programming abroad, and especially in China, through initiatives to build online programs (Teaching English as an International Foreign Language), innovate methods of marketing, developing an ambassador program for students to speak about their personal experiences. Dean Rosenblith adds that the in-house services provided by GSE—admission services, enrollment management, recruitment and marketing—are all relatively new, making it hard to gauge the success of these services right now.

Professor Walter Hakala notes there may be many undergraduate students interested in certification for Teaching English as a Foreign Language. Dr. Hakala says that perhaps there is an opportunity for GSE to provide that sort of program for undergraduate students. Dean Rosenblith referred Professor Hakala to Beth Etopio as a contact for potential K-12 program opportunities.

Dr. Wood asked about opportunities to promote international education in K-12 schools. He thinks that many students come to UB from local schools curious about international experiences such as studying abroad or studying a language. He was curious to know if more could be done to equip local school districts with resources on international education. Dr. Rosenblith said that GSE does a lot of outreach in the schools, and so many of the programs UB co-creates with the Buffalo Public Schools system are programs to help with English and reading, particularly for students who are non-native speakers. In fact, last spring, there was an initiative to recruit undergraduate students to tutor K-12 students in reading.

Dr. Hakala recommended that GSE be a resource for the many students thrown into deep end in teaching English abroad. Dr. Brutt-Griffler mentions that there are some courses available in second-language acquisition, and that there exists a TESOL certification program, which the office is working on making more available to undergraduates.

Professor Lillian Williams asked what proportion of GSE international students are learning online. Dr. Rosenblith says that of the roughly 30-40% of GSE students are online learners, but not many are international. Dr. Wood asked whether the online programs have a reduced tuition rate, which would be an incentive if international students do not have the resources to attend UB. Indeed, the online courses do have a reduced tuition. Dr. Hakala asked, “How does GSE market itself, and how does it differentiate itself from other SUNY institutions?” Dr. Rosenblith answers that UB is a research-intensive program.

Going back to the difficulty for GSE students to study abroad, Trevor Poag has looked at some models (i.e., spring break models, two-week models), which Dr. Wood thinks have important advantages over traditional models. Dr. Poag explained that these models focus on shorter window of engagement abroad for students with less time available and a smaller budget. These new models can be seen not just at UB, but nationwide. Professor Zhiqiang Liu with the UB Confucius Institute says that there is a possibility the Confucius Institute can help support a two-week program in China.

Dr. Wood inquired if there were any new ways GSE might target the Chinese market, or other major international student markets. Dr. Brutt-Griffler said that the GSE is in the final stages of approval for a quantitative research methods certificate, which has traditionally commanded strong interest from international students. Once the certificate is approved, GSE will market it internationally. There is confidence that this program will be popular. Dr. Wood noted that the existing program between GSE and the Economics Department has attracted a number of international students, including from Turkey on government scholarships; many of these students are staying to complete a Ph.D. program. Dr. Wood said that UB is very active in Turkey, and there may be opportunities for GSE to visit embassies in Washington to promote such programs for scholarship students.

Dr. Lorraine Oak asked how extensive the outreach effort is throughout the local districts. Dr. Rosenblith said that the GSE is working with superintendents from Buffalo, Erie 1, Erie 2, and Olean districts to create a range of programs, which primarily look at principal/teacher collaborations.

Dr. Brutt-Griffler added that GSE has been collaborating with these districts through a residency program, which has received funding, to prepare teachers to teach in an urban setting like Buffalo. This program allows students to take classes in the summer, as well as co-teach throughout the entire year. Students in the program receive a stipend. The first cohort for this residency program enrolled in summer 2018. GSE is currently interviewing 15 students for the next cohort—three of whom want to work with diverse languages. Thirteen of the applicants are students of color.

Dr. Wood asked if there will be a future demand for teachers. Dr. Rosenblith said that there is a projected demand for teachers, especially for subjects like special needs, ESL/bilingual languages, and STEM.

III. Report on the UB Confucius Institute—Zhiqiang Liu

Professor Zhiqiang Liu delivered a presentation on the UB Confucius Institute (UBCI). In December, Provost Zukoski plans to participate in the annual international conference for the Confucius Institutes in Chengdu, China. The UBCI has been established for nearly 10 years, and thus it is now time to think about a) a 10 year anniversary celebration, and b) renewal of the UB-Confucius Institute agreement for another 5 years. The first Confucius Institute in the world was established in 2004 in Korea, and the first in the US at the University at Maryland not long after. In total, there are 510 Confucius Institutes in 142 countries—and 110 in the United States. There are over 1,000 Confucius Classrooms (CC), which are CI programs within high schools and middle schools. Of the CIs, there are 19 at private universities and 45 at public research universities. There are over 328,000 students learning Chinese from CI programs; at UB, close to 5,000 K-12 students in local schools are learning Chinese thanks to the UBCI.

The UBCI was established in 2009, partnership with Capital Normal University (CNU) in Beijing. It receives funding from HanBan, an agency of China's Ministry of Education. Dr. Stephen Dunnett serves as the UBCI co-chair. Dr. Liu then explained some of the recent highlights from the UBCI. This year, the UBCI sponsored: a student exchange

program with the UB Department of Art (the UB-Tsinghua Art Exchange); an audiology workshop on hearing disorders (July 2018); “China in Africa: Global Perspectives” (April 2018); the Global Health Symposium for International Education Week (November 2018); and its annual UBCI Lecture Series (6 speakers this year). Further, there were two visiting professors: one in GSE, and one in the Department of Linguistics—both from Capital Normal University, Beijing.

Professor Brutt-Griffler and Capital Normal University have partnered to create a New York State-approved certificate program for teaching Chinese as a second language. She added that this program is significant because there are not many certificate programs that include a Master’s degree. A major challenge to the program is the fact that there are not enough certified teachers of Chinese in public schools with whom students may be placed for their student teaching.

The UBCI also offers scholarships for academic studies in China (7 different opportunities), including a 2-week study tour to Beijing. A UB student recently received the CI Dissertation Award to spend a semester in China doing research; another UB student received an award to obtain a four-year degree in China.

The UBCI also does a lot to serve the local community: there is a Confucius Reading Area in Lockwood Library, to which the UBCI donated many books; and there are K-12 language programs and community classes provided by UBCI. There are currently 10 HanBan teachers being hosted in local school districts to teach Chinese language and culture. The UBCI community class has about 30 students, and offers 1-on-1 tutoring services. UBCI also provides teacher training workshops; hosts an annual seminar for K-12 teachers; and provides the Chinese Bridge Tour for school administrators, organized and hosting by Capital Normal University.

The third component of UBCI activities are its cultural events, including the Chinese New Year (CFA), Chinese performance tours, UB on the Green, the Dragon Boat Festival, tai chi classes, Confucius day, and Mid-autumn Festival celebrations. In 2016, the UB Confucius Institute was honored as the Confucius Institute of the Year. There are ongoing efforts to make the UBCI an integral part of the UB campus. These efforts including: building UBCI into overall global strategies of UB (Chinese language and cultural programs); and continuing its presence through on-campus activities.

The recent concerns about CIs around the country have to do with academic freedom and integrity; the Chinese government’s overseas influence; and espionage on US campuses, though these concerns are mainly speculative and without evidence. To move forward with an agreement renewal between UB and the Confucius Institute, UB administration must revise the agreement with HanBan to further protect its students from the aforementioned concerns. The UBCI must also conduct an external program review.

Dr. Wood asked Dr. Liu what he had heard about these concerns, which are apparently significant from the media coverage. Dr. Wood explained that the UBCI agreement protects against these concerns, and Dr. Liu noted that in an evaluation of 11 Confucius Institutes, the UBCI was singled out as best protecting academic freedom.

Dr. Oak suggested that with agreement deadline nearing, for protection of program, the UBCI should work with the UB compliance office and with the export division to show proactivity in protecting students' freedoms.

Dr. Wood noted that another challenge for near-term is getting new teachers from China. Dr. Liu explained that the process is to first submit a request to Capital Normal. One requirement is that applicant must be a schoolteacher who has taught a minimum of 3 years. This policy has likely deterred prospective teachers. However, Dr. Liu anticipates there will be seven teachers for next year, who will then need to be replaced by seven more teachers the following year to maintain the status quo.

Dr. Hakala posed a question for the group: Does UBCI serve as a model for other bi-national groups on campus? Dr. Wood said that while there is an increasing collaboration with Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan, but he is not sure what's in the works—a critical piece is the funding, which China has been generous with. Other countries have initiatives to promote understanding of their languages and cultures, but they don't invest to the degree that China does.

Professor Brutt-Griffler asked Dr. Liu if other Confucius Institutes are facing the same challenges, and if so, how they are handling them. Dr. Liu said that SUNY policy that UBCI cannot deal directly with the government. Instead, the UBCI must report numbers to SUNY, who will then represent the UBCI to the government.

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

Evaluating International Education Week

Assistant Vice Provost for International Student Services Katie Tudini discussed the evaluation of International Education Week. She said there will be a more in-depth analysis at a meeting in two weeks. She said that in the future, ISS will have more lead time to plan International Education Week. International Education Week was successful in attracting more student interest and participation. Further, the faculty/decanal unit programming proposal system proved to be successful, as ISS received more program proposals than expected. This year, there was no keynote speaker, which allowed more funding for these decanal unit initiatives, as well as more allocated funding for t-shirts and other marketing that seemed to be well-received by students. This year's International Education Week saw the same number of events as in years past, but there were more units involved this year.

Some highlights from the 2018 International Education Week were the Global Gallery, which invited international students to participate, in addition to those who studied abroad—which turned out to be very impactful; the World Bazaar; the Canadian Consulate presentation; the International Coffeehouse, which was helped by efforts from the UB Confucius Institute; and an athletic night with the UB women's basketball team. Additionally, this year saw more student involvement—not just in terms of attendance, but also in creating new programs.

In the future, ISS will start its planning earlier, work more with departments to create clearer objectives/outcomes in programming, making sure the program descriptions are very clear, further promote inclusive engagement, and ultimately change the ethos of the International Education Week. Ms. Tudini invited feedback from the Council.

Dr. Wood agreed that there was broad participation, despite the late start in programming, and that Student Life contributed in a major way to IEW. He noted that there was standing room only for the Canadian Consulate presentation aimed at overviewing opportunities to apply for landed immigrant status in Canada.

Global Dexterity Digital Badge

Dr. Poag was happy to share that the Global Dexterity badge was officially approved for both undergraduate and graduate students, and will pilot a group as early as January 2019. Global Dexterity refers to a student's ability to change his/her own behavior in a foreign culture to approximate relevant practice in that culture. Andy Molinsky, who has written a book about global dexterity that inspired the badge, says that he has noticed that in U.S. higher education, and in the expat community, U.S. practitioners possess a high level of content knowledge, but are not always sure how to apply that knowledge in foreign cultures. With the badge, Dr. Poag hopes to provide students a nudge toward intercultural competence. Dr. Wood said that the digital badge can serve to recognize students' non-credit (service, volunteering abroad, etc.) experiences as well as conventional study abroad experiences.

V. Council Business

This is the last meeting of the semester, and CISP will reconvene on February 13, 2019. On a final note, Dr. Lillian Williams shared that African American Studies will be celebrating its 50th anniversary, with a keynote speaker—also on February 13. Dr. Wood said that this event should be shared on the listserv.

Council on International Studies and Programs

Attendance at the Meeting, November 28, 2018

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