

Council on International Studies and Programs

Minutes of Meeting

September 28, 2016

I. Welcome by the Vice Provost and New Chair—Stephen Dunnett, Peter Biehl

Professor Dunnett asked for a moment of silence in memory of Professor John Ho, a longstanding member who made many contributions to the Council and to international education more generally. He was a wonderful colleague and mentor to faculty and students alike. During his tenure as Dean of the Graduate School and as faculty member in Physics, he took a strong interest in international students, advocated for the adoption of TOEFL requirement in the 1970s and pushed for a testing and training program for international teaching assistants (ITAs). UB became the first university to develop full-fledged ITA program that addressed linguistic, cross-cultural and pedagogical issues. Professor Ho was typically modest and self-effacing in his last year and expressed regret at leaving his wife Martha alone. He had a strong interest in issues relating to the inclusion and engagement of international students. He was a reliable source of good counsel to Professor Dunnett and other senior leaders.

Professor Dunnett introduced Professor Peter Biehl, Chair of Anthropology, as the new chair of the Council. Professor Dunnett said he expected other members would agree that Professor Biehl will be a superb chair, having done an excellent job leading the Task Force on International Student Inclusion and Engagement. Professor Dunnett said he was grateful that Professor Biehl is willing to take on this challenge despite his heavy commitments and travel schedule. His leadership is especially critical at this time.

Professor Biehl said he looked forward to members sharing their recent international activities. He said he enjoyed working on this committee the most because of his strong interest in international education. This is why he came to UB in the first place—because of its international engagement. He looks forward to working with colleagues on the Council to further internationalize the curriculum and the institution. He welcomes feedback from members at any time. He thanked those involved in the task force over the past two years who developed a treasure trove of resources on UBLeans; he encouraged members to make use of it and thanked them for their continued service.

II. Approval of the Draft Minutes of the April 13, 2016 Meeting—Peter Biehl

The minutes of the April meeting were approved as distributed.

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

Professor Dunnett invited John Wood to introduce a new member of the International Education staff. Dr. Wood introduced Dr. Trevor Poag, the new Director of Global Learning Opportunities, who is tasked with working with faculty and academic units in a strategic fashion to develop new study abroad programs that align with UB curricula and student interests, and in particular support the Global Pathway in the UB Curriculum. Dr. Poag briefly described his past professional experience working on program development and administration primarily in Latin America. He began his career as a social worker

assisting immigrant communities. He brings a strong background in program design and learning outcomes for study abroad programs. His doctoral dissertation focused on program design, and specifically on transformative learning achieved through study abroad.

Professor Dunnett noted the record enrollment numbers this fall—nearly 4,000 freshmen, including nearly 400 international freshmen. Mr. Steven Shaw, Director of International Admissions, provided a report summarizing the international enrollment numbers for fall 2016. The original international freshmen target was 350; UB exceeded the target by 44 (394). This achievement took a lot of work to maximize the yield. The number of international transfers is down compared to fall 2015 on both the international and domestic side. For financial reasons students tend to stay where they begin their degrees. UB ended up with 155 international transfers this fall. More worrying, there has been a 6.5% decrease in the international graduate enrollment this fall, though with a slight increase in continuing students. UB needs to avoid getting falling into a year-to-year pattern of increased volatility in enrollment on the graduate side. Mr. Shaw noted that the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences recently recruited Chris Connor to oversee graduate enrollment management in the school, and an improvement is already evident in that domain. Mr. Connor organized an excellent orientation for incoming students, both domestic and international.

For fall 2016, UB's total international enrollment is 4863 or 17% of total enrollment. Mr. Shaw referred to a handout listing the leading sending countries and school for international enrollment. He noted the increase in students from Iran, currently 4th on list of countries sending the most graduate students. UB generally follows national trends. Return on investment is a critical criterion for international prospects. The targets for next year were only recently clarified. The Provost is looking to enroll 400 international freshmen in fall 2017. Professor Dunnett noted that despite the small proportion of total freshmen, international freshmen pay 3.5 times what domestic freshmen pay. The revenue is a critical consideration. Overall tuition revenue is about \$300 million. While international students are only 17% of total enrollment, they contribute one-third of UB's total tuition revenue.

Professor Bunker suggested that CISP could look at the factors affecting international enrollment in the current context. Professor Biehl noted that he would also like to have someone speak about UB's rankings and what we might provide by way of feedback. Ms. Dussourd asked what made the difference this year in terms of the freshmen number. Mr. Shaw said that recruitment activities have increased with more travel, increasing the applications received by 10 percent. The first step is growing the applicant pool. There's also been more follow up, especially around communications with applicants. International students typically apply to 10 to 12 schools, so most have admission and scholarship offers from multiple institutions. What differentiates UB from competing schools? Students are looking at return on investment for the \$250,000 they spend on a four-year degree in the U.S. International Enrollment Management highlights the differentiators for UB—the UB Curriculum, undergraduate research opportunities, faculty and strategic priorities, and career opportunities. The last-minute tuition increase (10% or \$2,600) announced in July was a significant problem. This year's scholarship program has been adjusted to maximize yield.

Professor Dunnett asked Ms. Dussourd to report on the arrival and orientation of the new students, noting that both the graduate and undergraduate orientations were highly successful. Ms. Dussourd reported that they had 1576 new international students in total,

somewhat less than the all-time record of several years ago. She referred to handouts showing the orientation schedules. In addition to introducing UB resources and services and addressing key academic concerns, the orientation makes students aware of things outside UB that they need—bank and cell phone accounts, drivers licenses, Social Security numbers, health and safety issues, off-campus housing etc. Students find the orientation very comprehensive. ISSS is always tweaking the content and logistics of the orientation, its schedule and mix of activities. The office relies on feedback solicited from the students who participated. It is always a work in progress. Ms. Dussourd also briefed the Council on ISSS workshops, including events focusing on academic integrity due to increasing incidents of cheating by students. ISSS is trying aggressively to address this problem. There is a need to educate students about our academic culture in this regard. ISSS also organizes lots of trips and cultural activities, which run year round since many international students stay in Buffalo over the summer. The immense burden of regulatory compliance due to ever-changing Department of Homeland Security (DHS) policies continues to be a challenge for ISSS staff. DHS has been working on a next-generation version of SEVIS, but this project failed and they're instead changing the original SEVIS with many updates that have required a lot of manual updates, e.g. around student address information.

Ms. Mary Odrzywolski, Director of Study Abroad, reported on summer study abroad programs. She noted her office had recently moved down the hall to 201 Talbert, making it more visible and accessible to students. In 2015-2016, the office sent a total of 586 students abroad, slightly down from past year. One of the reasons for the decline is increased concern among students and parents about safety, even in popular Western Europe—where there have been recent terrorist attacks in several countries. That concern is reported nationally and in SUNY. UB has signed on to IIE's Generation Study Abroad commitment to double study abroad participation—to 965—by 2020. The office also seeks to better track students who go abroad “under the radar” (typically on non-credit programs). The UB Curriculum is an exciting opportunity, reframing how study abroad works by focusing attention on the articulation of study abroad courses as UB courses. The office has been working with the Registrar and advising community to better track the courses students take abroad and how this work will fit the UBC and their majors. Improving student advisement will help better prepare students and assure them they will have a positive outcome from study abroad. The Registrar is working on enhancement to the Pathfinder tool to showcase study abroad options in the Global Pathway, and to make this as clear and transparent as possible. To date, some 210 incoming students have already selected OPR (Overseas Program Registration, or study abroad courses) in the Pathfinder; these students are being advised to meet with staff to explore study abroad options. Sixteen UB study abroad programs were offered in summer 2016; and ten winter programs in January 2016. Summer programs includes partner programs as well. Ms. Dussourd asked about course articulation. Ms. Odrzywolski said that while UB offers fifty semester programs, only 16 major partners take most of the students. Professor John Stone asked about non-faculty-led programs. Ms. Odrzywolski said these are programs at institutional partners that receive students in summer for special programs. For example, UB sends students to Darmstadt, Germany for 6 credits in summer without a faculty leader from UB. Similar programs are available in Japan and Korea based at institutional partners. Professor Biehl recommended that members look at the Pathfinder (<http://www.buffalo.edu/ubcurriculum/pathways/path-finder.html>) to see the rich global learning opportunities available at UB.

IV. Implementation of the Task Force Report on International Student Inclusion and Engagement—Stephen Dunnett and Peter Biehl

Professor Dunnett reported that he has had two meetings with the Provost about the task force report and that the Provost is happy with the report and its recommendations. The Provost has specific thoughts about implementation. The main point he made was that the deans and decanal areas to make a commitment to the integration and inclusion of international students. The Office of International Education cannot be successful without this buy-in and engagement from the deans and schools, particularly those enrolling the most international students. He would like to dispel the notion that international students are the sole concern of International Education. This requires a culture change in the academic units regarding their role and the role of International Education.

The students are concentrated in three schools—Engineering, Management and the College. The Provost would like to bring the deans together with Professor Biehl, and key vice provosts—Graham Hammill, Andy Stott and Teri Miller. This is the starting point—to have the schools take ownership. The challenge should be approached from different directions—an internationalized university should provide cross-cultural engagement, international students are a recruitment opportunity, and programs are needed to bring international and domestic students together. The Provost learned a lot from the report and was energized by its recommendations. He recognizes that UB has to highlight the importance of international students and schools should include this in their strategic plans. Professor Dunnett said he was pleased that the Provost is taking ownership of the report. He acknowledged the best practices of schools like Architecture and Planning, and Social Work. The Provost is scheduling a meeting with Professor Biehl to develop an implementation plan. Professor Dunnett congratulated Professor Biehl and the task force members. Professor Biehl noted that the Council has a practice of welcoming new deans, and thus both Paul Tesluk from Management and Robin Schulze from the College are being invited to CISP meetings this fall. When he meets with Professor Biehl, the Provost will make the report official and then it will become public and shared with the campus. The Provost is concerned about alienated and disaffected students, and the implications for retention. To grow enrollment by 2000, UB needs to recruit more international students as well as minority students and new immigrants.

V. Member Reports on Recent International Activities

Professor Biehl invited members to report on their international activities over the summer break. He noted his own experience visiting a new partner university in Tarragona, Spain, which has not only preserved Roman ruins but also excellent programs in anthropology and classics, and a ‘Cultural Heritage Course’ Winter Session is jointly planned with faculty from the two departments. There is also ongoing collaboration involving both the Chemical Engineering department. A Critical Museum Studies program has been launched at UB, and Professor Biehl spent time visiting museums in Europe to discuss internships at museums. He also did some scholarly research in libraries and archives in Munich on his new field project in Turkey. Professor Dunnett reported he had planned a holiday trip to Turkey to attend a wedding of a former student there, but the coup interrupted plans and the wedding was postponed. Some colleagues in Turkey have been detained, and staff have been relieved of their duties at Turkish partner universities. Professor Dunnett attended the annual graduation in Singapore in July. John Stone reported that he and Henry Taylor attended a

Health in Housing meeting in Havana; next meeting of the network will likely be held here. The new co-directors of UB's Health in Housing Center are Professors Pavani Ram and Kory Smith of the Community for Global Health Equity. Professor Jessie Poon reported on her teaching in Singapore in spring, and her visit to London to attend meetings and give a paper. Mr. Wei Loon Leong, Director of International Alumni Engagement, spent his summer planning alumni activities, including events in Canada such as a reception at Niagara on the Lake. Professor Yu-ping Chang went home to Taiwan to do research with a former student on opiate addiction; she will go to China in two weeks. Professor Natalie Simpson had a productive summer in terms of research but there was no international travel. Dr. Lisa Lenker of the Community of Global Health Equity (CGHE) was involved in several trips to Africa, especially Uganda, brokering a relationship with the Danish Refugee Council. Three faculty members are involved in this project, including Professor Jim Jensen, who is addressing water shortages for refugees and water purification issues relating to refugee water supplies/wells. He is looking at cost-effective ways to make water potable and appealing. The local partner is Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. CGHE is also looking at housing issues in Africa. These projects will involve travel, though perhaps not conventional study abroad. Professor Graham Hammill reported on recent work of the Graduate School—working with Indian and Chinese universities on proposed dual-PhD programs. There is growing interest in such opportunities around the world. The Graduate School is working with units across the campus to help graduate students become more career-ready, including for jobs outside academia. There is increased outreach to students, especially international students, to make them aware. A new workshop with Career Services deals with applying for university jobs in the U.S. A third initiative is launching a new website to better serve graduate students. In cooperation with International Admissions the website will integrate information for international students seamlessly, with call-outs for international students. Professor Filomena Critelli is involved in several international projects—one in Mexico, in partnership with two universities on a COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) course on human rights and disability and children's rights. She is also going to Chile to report on the project. Professor Critelli is also going back to Pakistan to continue work on domestic violence issues. Professor EunHee Lee was in Korea this summer with Professor Walt Hakala. Mr. Oscar Budde reported that his office, UB Immigration Services moved to its new home in 110 Cooke Hall, close to a parking lot. He invited members to please stop by.

Professor Biehl expressed his gratitude to Professor Engel, who has been an outstanding model as chair of the Council. Both he and Professor Bunker set a high standard as chairs.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Wood, Secretary

COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND PROGRAMS

Attendance at the Meeting, September 28, 2016

Present:	Dr. Peter Biehl, Chair	Anthropology
	Mr. Oscar A. Budde (ex officio)	Immigration Services
	Dr. Barbara B. Bunker	Psychology
	Dr. Yu-Ping Chang	Nursing
	Dr. Filomena Critelli	Social Work
	Dr. Stephen C. Dunnett (ex officio)	International Education
	Ms. Ellen Dussourd (ex officio)	International Student & Scholar Services
	Dr. David Fertig	Linguistics
	Dr. Graham Hammill	Graduate School
	Mr. Christopher Hollister	University Libraries
	Dr. Junhao Hong	Communication
	Ms. Maria S. Horne	Theatre and Dance
	Dr. EunHee Lee	Asian Studies
	Mr. Wei Loon Leong	Alumni Engagement
	Dr. Donald McGuire	Classics
	Dr. H. Lorraine Oak	College of Arts and Sciences
	Ms. Mary Odrzywolski (ex officio)	Study Abroad Programs
	Dr. Trevor Poag	International Education
	Dr. Jessie P.H. Poon	Geography
	Mr. Steven L. Shaw (ex officio)	International Admissions
	Dr. Natalie Simpson	Management
Dr. John H. Stone	Public Health and Health Professions	
Dr. Claude E. Welch	Political Science	
Dr. John J. Wood, Secretary	International Education	
Guests:	Dr. Luis E. Chiesa	Law
	Dr. Lisa Lenker	Community for Global Health Equity
Excused:	Dr. Stella Batalama	Electrical Engineering
	Dr. Tilman Baumstark	Faculty Affairs
	Dr. Janina Brutt-Griffler	Learning and Instruction
	Dr. Colleen Culleton	Romance Languages and Literatures
	Ms. Kathy L. Curtis	English Language Institute
	Dr. David Engel	Law
	Dr. Christian Flaugh	Romance Languages and Literatures
	Dr. Daniel Hess	Architecture and Planning
	Mr. Joseph J. Hindrawan (ex officio)	International Education
	Dr. Shaun Irlam	Comparative Literature
	Ms. Meredith Kolsky Lewis	Law
	Dr. Mulchand Patel	Biochemistry
	Dr. Pavani Ram	Epidemiology and Environmental Health
	Dr. Othman Shibly	Dental Medicine
	Dr. Lillian Williams	African American Studies
	Dr. Jiyuan Yu	Philosophy