

Council on International Studies and Programs
Minutes of the Meeting, September 18, 2019

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

Professor Biehl welcomed members and asked if there were any questions on the minutes. Professor Walt Hakala mentioned the meeting minutes state the working group of CISP members and University Advancement would present proposals for supporting international education through philanthropy at the first meeting. This has been postponed until later in the semester. Professor Biehl introduced two new members to the Council, Lindsay Gladney from the Law School who will be covering for Meredith Lewis for a few meetings, and Professor Katharina Azim from Psychology, who was on maternity leave in the spring semester. Dr. Wood mentioned another new member who could not be here today, Professor Gina Prescott from Pharmacy.

II. Update on Institutional Rankings and the Metrics for International Education—Craig Abbey, Associate Vice President and Director of Institutional Analysis

Professor Biehl introduced Mr. Abbey, who presented to the Council last year on rankings and has returned to provide an update. There are ranking organizations in the United States and overseas such as the Times Higher Ed, Shanghai Index and QS. While it is wonderful that UB has moved up in domestic rankings, recruiters know that overseas parents and students are looking at other rankings. Some foreign universities look at rankings when deciding whether to collaborate or work with faculty from another university. Some universities such as Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan will not collaborate with institution below a certain rank. In his presentation, Mr. Abbey noted that there are four major global rankings, but it is difficult to compare them because the criteria and metrics for each vary considerably. Most focus on scholarly or research output. The Shanghai ranking collects their own data and thus there is no input from universities themselves.

Definitions are also problematic. For example, what is a doctorate? Does this include professional doctorates in addition to the Ph.D.? There is also the difficulty of comparing data across different higher education systems. How much research does \$1 million buy? If we look at Harvard with approximately 4,000 post docs, the number of publications is massive and they do well on the rankings. It has to do with scale and size. Larger institutions with those scales do better especially with international rankings. The Shanghai rankings include the number of Nobel Prize winners as a metric. If a professor wins the Nobel Prize at a university, its ranking suddenly improves even though the institution has not changed. Arizona State recruited an academic who won the Nobel Prize in Economics the very next year. As a result, the Shanghai ranking for ASU jumped.

UB has had more success moving up in the domestic rankings. The most important is the US News ranking. In the last five years, UB has moved up 20 places. Our ranking there is now 31st out of all US public institutions. The Washington Monthly ranking focuses on the good the university is doing as a whole using research, community

engagement, etc. as indicators. However, if you do not complete the survey it gives you a score of zero, which lowers your ranking.

Mr. Abbey explained some of the international metrics that affect UB's global rankings compared to other leading research universities. For example, UB ranks 41st in terms of the number of faculty. Texas AM, which is much larger, has more faculty than we do and therefore does better on this metric. One of the things the rankings look at is the number of international faculty, a metric that UB does well on. However, once international faculty gain permanent residency, they no longer count. It may also be partly due to a slowdown in our hiring.

Some metrics have to do with costs. UB still has a relatively low resident tuition, even with the recent increases. UB's non-resident tuition is also low compared to other institutions. There is not a big difference between the five institutions below and above UB. Elite institutions that are a big market draw can raise non-resident tuition and still draw students. UB continues to have conversations with SUNY since the non-resident undergraduate rate is higher than the non-resident graduate tuition rate. There does not seem to be a reason for this except that there is a large market for non-resident undergraduates. There has been many changes over the past 10 years, including an increased shift away from state support to reliance on tuition revenue. Now UB depends even more on international student enrollment for revenue.

Enrollment numbers and mix are also important metrics. In the past five years, UB has grown by 2000 undergraduate students and 700 graduate students. International undergraduates have increased by 1000 but the growth has flattened out. Expansion of other universities offering overseas opportunities and the impression less friendly environment in the US put a damper on our ability to recruit overseas since 2016. Enrollment in STEM fields dipped as our population rose but it is starting to come back up. The dip could be due to visa issues or the present political atmosphere. We have a draw to the STEM fields on international side. The Humanities have seen a decline. The visa situation, departmental draw and work situation play an influence in enrollment. Different disciplines have different impacts.

Dr. Lorraine Oak asked about the impact of the Excelsior Scholarship on undergraduate enrollment. It was thought that Excelsior would boost enrollment, but tuition is only part of the cost. UB did see an increase in applications, but whether that was a deciding factor is hard to tell or if there will be a long-term impact. In international rankings, how is research quantified? Mostly by publications, expenditures, and citations. Funding is different with internationals. The big difference is that the US has federal grants involving indirect costs. Federal allowable indirect costs can be as much as 59% of direct costs.

Professor Biehl asked how the Council could be helpful. Can Mr. Abbey point us to anything we can do move the needle, i.e. establishing a taskforce? The student/faculty ratio is important as a metric both for international and domestic students, as is tenure vs. non-tenure track. Hiring more tenure track faculty than non-tenure track will change the number. Where can we help with the metrics as these pertain to international recruitment?

It is difficult to move the needle. Producing more research and highly cited publications would help, and completing more ranking surveys might improve UB's rankings. It is not clear that people respond to the reputational surveys sent out by ranking organizations. Institutional Analysis tries to be responsive whenever possible. The Shanghai ranking gives more points for publishing in science and nature. The Council will look into what we can do to help and get back to Craig.

Dr. Mara Huber spoke of the relation between ranking and changes in enrollment and admissions. UB attracts more domestic applications when the US News ranking improves. Do rankings matter? The assumption is that people do look at them to narrow down their list of potential institutions. International students are keen on global rankings; this is clearly an important consideration since most cannot visit campus first hand.

Professor Shibly stated that Shanghai ranked the UB dental school #11 out of 300 dental schools globally and 9th in the US. Do they count the impact of the schools addressing disparities with underprivileged populations? Professor Azim questioned why clinical faculty are not considered in the metrics. Depending on the ranking system, the calculation of academic staff may include clinical faculty. The reason that nationally compare has to do with the Morrill Land Grant Act, which called for extension faculty. It is a quirk in the data sets. Professor Hakala noted that some foreign universities would fund their own scholars to visit universities ranked in the top 100. If UB were to break into this group, how would we accommodate hosting scholars from the other countries at the university?

Mr. Abbey said that UB has an interesting competition with Binghamton University. Depending on what rankings one is looking at, students would go to one university over another. There are two levels of rankings, the university ranking and the school or department rankings. In this tough market, that is where we should continue the discussion and brainstorm. Many are departmentally based and there is not a lot of room for change. We have made changes here and there to influence the rank. One example is if took out the Singapore program, we look less international but increase the faculty-student rank. Everyone should think about how we can move this forward by the next meeting.

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

Study Abroad—Mary Odrzywolski, Trevor Poag

Ms. Odrzywolski said that the fall Study Abroad fair would be held on September 26 from 11 am to 2 pm in the Student Union lobby. She asked members to encourage their students to attend, as this will be the biggest fair of the year and will include SUNY partners promoting their own programs. Study Abroad also does classroom presentations (e.g. in UB Seminars) and finds that it is the best way to reach students. Ms. Odrzywolski mentioned that if faculty need to cancel a class for any reason, perhaps instead of cancelling they could have Study Abroad present to the class.

Study Abroad scholarships to students in 2018-19 fall, winter, spring and summer programs amounted to \$88,347. Over the summer the Registrar's office updated the transfer articulation database. Now, when Study Abroad submits courses for articulation, they go directly to the department for review. The process is more expedited and efficient. Study Abroad continues to monitor students requesting OPR coursework in the Pathfinder tool. As of today, 495 students had shown interest in studying abroad to meet their Global Pathway requirements. Unfortunately, not all students who are interested are able to study abroad; some may not meet minimum requirements. In total, UB sent 540 student abroad last year, 521 of which were UB students. Professor Biehl asked that an email be sent to members so they could alert their colleagues and students to the upcoming fair.

Dr. Poag reported on the successful summer faculty-led programs, which enrolled approximately 200 students altogether. The day following the meeting a reception would be held for recent faculty leaders of programs to thank them for their contribution and to reflect on best practices. Chris Hollister of the UB Libraries reported on a new course on international librarianship during which he had the opportunity to lead students on experiential tour of libraries of Costa Rica. This program drew students from across the country and from four different institutions. Dr. Christine Human developed and visited a faculty-led engineering program in Swansea, UK that was led by Kris Depowski, who teaches EAS 360, the CL2 course for Engineering. Since this course is a requirement for all engineering students, there is a large pool from which to recruit.

Update on the SIM Program—John Wood

Dr. Wood reported that he had attended the annual commencement in July for the Singapore program and took part in the program's 15th anniversary celebration, joining Stephen Dunnett and other UB colleagues. At the celebration, Stephen Dunnett was recognized as a founder. UB has just launched a GIS degree program at SIM, which should have a good market in Singapore. In general, the Singapore program is still flourishing. A new contract was recently signed to extend the UB-SIM contract another 5 years.

Fall Enrollment Report—Steven Shaw

The fall enrollment report is in your folder. The number of enrolled freshmen bumped up to 324, and transfer really jumped to 117. Continuing students dropped a little but this is not likely due to retention problems. Mr. Shaw thought that perhaps some students are finishing earlier.

This fall there was a significant decline in new international graduate students. This was mostly due to engineering and specifically computer science and engineering. Continuing graduate students numbers may be going up because of a bubble created by a large incoming class a year ago. They are concerned that spring 2020 will have a significant decline in overall international enrollment unless engineering has significant spring increase. The total percentage is about the same. On the other side of the handout, the left side shows the leading sending countries. The right side list shows the top majors. Are there any concerns regarding enrollment? Mr. Shaw said there was nothing surprising about these numbers. The U.S. had several good years where there was a greater receptiveness of student from Iran, but that has tightened up. There still is

interest but it is hard for them to get here. In general, did any student not come because of visa delays? It is hard to tell due to administrative processing that sometimes delays visa issuance. We do not usually hear about them. Sometimes students defer admission and UB only learns about it after the fact. In all, perhaps four or five undergraduates, primarily from China, did not get a visa.

International Student Services—Katie Tudini

Katie Tudini asked members to let ISS know if students are having visa problems, so ISS can try to help. They have an Iranian student in administrative processing now. This year we are working with only one, compared to last year when there were 12. Ms. Tudini provided an update on the new ISS check-in process. They restructured the orientation welcome series and received positive feedback from students. This restructure focuses on addressing the needs students have right away. They moved advisement to one day and for a longer period of time. The welcome series is 5-6 weeks long and has many activities. They took the original orientation week of back-to-back sessions and spread it out to allow students more time to take it all in. Focus groups helped clarify what students need at what time.

Ms. Tudini said that ISS would be completing its required SEVIS reporting the following Tuesday. Only one undergrad is currently under-enrolled and they are working with the student to correct this. ISS has heard from students that they wanted a digital platform for navigating the Welcome Series. They also had backup print materials. The tool was beneficial. It had a calendar to track their events and students could chat with each other. All the tools were in one place. ISS is creating a newsletter specifically for faculty/staff that will launch next week. They can also log into faculty/staff section of the ISS website for more information. Professor Horne was concerned that some incoming students didn't know where to go, that some of the students were confused. All the sessions were offered but they do not take attendance except for required sessions. They cannot force students to pay more attention. There was a concern that students do not understand how the university works. Some students were not sure how to use campus transportation. Often students do not see the value of information when it is presented but only when it is needed. Since the welcome series is scheduled over a longer period of time, there are more opportunities to refresh student memory.

ISS is now recruiting for the student mentoring program. If anyone is interested in being a mentor, please let Caitlin Rioux know. More students are signing up for the program. International Education week presently has 15 events in development. If you would like to have an event for IEW, please submit the details on the ISS website. International Education Week is held Nov 18-22, the week before Thanksgiving, according to a schedule established by the US State Department.

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Attendance at the Meeting, September 18, 2019

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