

Council on International Studies and Programs

Minutes of Meeting

October 21, 2015

I. Welcome of New Members: Approval of Minutes—David M. Engel

Professor Engel introduced Professor Graham Hammill, the new Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School, who served as Chair of the English Department prior to his appointment. The draft minutes were approved as distributed.

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

Professor Dunnett reported that he and President Tripathi would be traveling to India to attend the commencement ceremony for the two dual-degree programs at Amrita University in Bangalore; to renew agreements with Amrita, including the general MOU and the agreement for the M.S. in Embedded Systems; and to discuss a new “3+2” agreement in Computer Science. While in Bangalore they will also host the first alumni reception ever held in India, to include both graduates from Buffalo and from Amrita dual-degree programs. Some 88 alumni have registered as of today, including folks coming from other cities in India. Among distinguished alumni is Dr. Ashutosh Sharma, a new minister in the Government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The alumni event will be the basis for the eventual formation of an Alumni Association Chapter in India, the thirteenth in a foreign country. In preparation for the alumni event, great help has been provided by various units across campus, as well as faculty who are still in contact with their former students.

III. Conversation with Professor Graham Hammill, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School

Professor Engel welcomed Vice Provost Hammill and thanked him for joining the meeting and sharing his plans for the Graduate School. Professor Hammill said he appreciated the opportunity to speak to CISP about issues of shared concern. It is important to realize that international students constitute one-third of UB’s graduate enrollment. He said he would offer an overview of his key priorities for the short term. He noted that there are big challenges and issues facing graduate education; moreover, he has been struck by how much he does not know. There are two main priorities for the coming year: strategically expanding the effort to promote interdisciplinary programs across disciplinary silos—a difficult challenge at UB. The second large priority is expanding student services beyond transactional services to include horizontal or transferable skills programming. This initiative would help students become more self-reflexive about what it means to be in graduate school. Workshops will be developed to promote increased awareness and to reduce time-to-degree. The Graduate School will work with Career Services to develop more programs for graduate students; he noted Career Services’ recently published e-guidebook for graduate students. UB needs more networking opportunities for graduate students—from inside the academy and for jobs outside the academy. Workshops could be offered on work-life balance, financial literacy, fellowships, time management, and stress reduction.

These initiatives intersect with international education. UB is a local and global institution. What kind of programs play to our strength as international institution? Should workshops

be offered to help faculty to be better mentors for international students, e.g. in supervising dissertations, etc.? How to best advise and assist international students? Another intersection between graduate and international education is helping international graduate students succeed at UB. How can the Graduate School help foster better inclusion and engagement? Enrollment is a big concern currently. In 2004, there were 4000 completed graduate applications to UB, and 2,000 offers. This year there are 10,500 applications, and 4000 offers. Is such growth sustainable? The President has challenged UB to grow its enrollment by 2,000 by 2020. One-third is expected to be at the post-baccalaureate level. Over the last ten years, the growth in graduate enrollment has largely been thanks to international students. However, as of this year, it appears that the number of international graduate applications is going down. Is growth sustainable? Is the distribution of international students overly risky, with students concentrated in SEAS and SOM, and from only a few countries (China, India, Korea)? Are we keeping up with student services, given the growth in enrollment? Are we meeting the career aims and desires of international students? He said he has been at a loss to provide good advisement to international students in the English Department looking to career options in their own country. Likewise, with students seeking to stay in the U.S. Could UB do a better job helping students to think at earlier stage about career options, whether here or in their home country?

Professor Hammill had asked in advance for the Council to consider three basic issues: (1) Which of the priorities of the International Student Inclusion and Engagement Task Force applies to international graduate students? (2) What are the challenges facing international graduate recruitment and enrollment? and (3) Are faculty prepared to train and mentor international graduate students?

Ms. Dussourd pointed out that ISSS workshops often have a poor turnout from international graduate students unless there is a financial bottom line involved. She is wondering how to incentivize students to participate. Often students don't know what they need. Professor Hammill said it was impossible to make such workshops mandatory. Would word-of-mouth help? Ms. Dussourd said that she could share the ISSS survey of international students about their thoughts about and experiences with class participation, as well as their experiences with faculty and fellow classmates in the classroom. Mr. Leong said he can speak to Alumni and Career Services opportunities. There is an online portal to promote networking among alumni with shared interests, and there is an online career fair to connect students to alumni in their own field. Alumni Engagement will expand these opportunities. Mr. Leong will be visiting Korea after the India event, and the Korean chapter is interested in helping graduates with advanced degrees in English and Communication. Professor Hammill said the online fair idea is excellent. Clearly, the labor market is becoming globalized.

Professor Biehl pointed out that Professor Hammill is a member of a new Task Force working group focusing on international graduate students. The Task Force is looking at best practices across the institution. How do faculty cope with large numbers of international students? There is also a working group on resources and budget for inclusion activities. Experiential learning and the role of international students—is this only a consideration for undergraduate students? UB needs to scale up such opportunities. Professor Patel inquired about support for international graduate students. In MS programs students are generally self-supported, while PhD students are typically supported. Given the two components of doctoral support—stipend and tuition waiver—it has become very

expensive to support international Ph.D. students due to the escalating non-resident tuition. It is almost less expensive to hire a post-doc, who has less of a learning curve, than a Ph.D. student. How can UB address this problem? In our system, anticipating enrollment and estimating tuition in grant applications are problematic because some of those funds are lost when students graduate. It's an enrollment management issue. Financing tuition for doctoral students is a big challenge because the cost of tuition limits the number of non-residents UB can support. This matter is under discussion at SMBS. Best practices in notifying students about fees. Dr. Oak said it was imperative that the Graduate School work with the Vice President for Research in setting policies that serve the needs of all the schools. Tuition policy is critical in grant applications. Use blended rate? Indirect cost considerations.

Ms. Dussourd pointed out that ISSS sends online newsletters to students ahead of arrival and uses Mailchimp to track who is reading these; these could include Graduate Student information. Professor Engel noted the emphasis on working with faculty who deal with international students—how much is this for the units to address? Professor Hammill said it was possible for the Graduate School to offer workshops that help faculty teach and mentor international students. New faculty in particular could benefit from mentoring workshops. Professor Ho said that international faculty don't necessarily work well with students from a very different part of the world. This is a complicated process, and there is no simple generic approach. Professor Patel said that expectations can be set during the faculty orientation. The challenge is to understand what units are doing already, and what they cannot do. The disciplinary focus in many units limits what can be offered on horizontal/transferable skills.

Professor EunHee Lee asked about interdisciplinary programs such as Asian Studies. Are these good resources in the effort to educate faculty? Professor Hammill said that program planning should take into account the globalization of UB curricula. Professor Kim asked whether, with the large increase in international students, UB is looking for a way to better serve this population. How can we be more proactive? In Social Work, faculty meetings are one way to engage faculty. If UB wants to make sure faculty are up to speed, faculty meetings should make this front and center. Professor Kim said she thinks it's a myth that international faculty are better prepared to work with international students.

Professor Hammill said that given the rapidity of the growth in UB's international enrollment, it is not surprising that we are challenged to achieve the desired inclusion and engagement. Have we been able to scale up our services? Given the anticipated additional growth, how do we scale up further? Professor Brutt-Griffler said she appreciated the ideas and efforts of the Graduate School. Having worked with international students over the past decade at UB, she recognizes the challenge involved in orienting them to our system and our academic discourses. Many of these students are transnational and increasingly sophisticated. We need to socialize these students to the culture of the American classroom. Mr. Budde asked if UB should highlight the challenge of working with international students when recruiting and orienting new faculty. Currently this is not emphasized to incoming faculty. Could expectations be appropriately clarified for incoming faculty? Perhaps we need to institutionalize this expectation and change the culture in this regard.

IV. Report from Christopher Kohler, Assistant Resident Director of the UB-SIM Programs

Professor Engel invited Mr. Kohler to update the Council on the UB-SIM programs. Mr. Kohler thanked the Council for the opportunity. He introduced Ms. Sophia Tang, a UB-SIM student at UB for the academic year. Referring to a handout with information about the programs, Mr. Kohler outlined the history of the UB programs in Singapore and current enrollment data. He noted that several CISP members at the meeting had taught at SIM. The newest major is in International Trade (Geography) and the newest concentration is Supply Chain Management (part of the Business Administration major). There is a mix of faculty from the US and Singapore. The quality of students at SIM is very high. At the last graduation in July a large percentage of students received Latin honors. Approximately 85% are employed soon after graduation. Significant numbers of students go on to graduate degrees, including ones at UB. UB's social science programs are unique in Singapore. This is an important niche offering with a good market. The programs are designed to be completed entirely in Singapore, though many students choose to come to UB to study for a semester or year. Mr. Kohler said he was meeting with Study Abroad to find ways to send more UB students to Singapore. More than 70 have studied at SIM since spring 2014. One of the students who studied at SIM is now doing a UN internship; another is in the JET program in Japan. Some 15-20 visiting faculty teach at SIM each semester. This offers a great opportunity to internationalize UB faculty. Newly minted Ph.D.'s as well as senior doctoral students have the opportunity to teach at SIM. There are also opportunities to do research in Singapore; some faculty are publishing based on work at SIM. In speaking about her own experience, Ms. Tang said she finds the courses easier at UB and enhanced level of student participation in her classes. She also appreciates the much larger range of courses and extracurricular activities available in Buffalo.

Professor McGuire asked if there are any new programs being considered at SIM. Professor Dunnett said SIM was exploring new possibilities including graduate programs. Professor Lewis asked whether there were pathways for SIM students to gain early access to graduate programs at UB, e.g. pre-law program at SIM? Mr. Kohler said there were scholarships available to SIM students interested in graduate programs. Students at SIM seek government scholarships to support graduate studies but these require well-ranked institutions. The ranking required depends on field. Professor Dunnett said it was unlikely for UB to recruit law students from Singapore due to the traditional British legal system and the country's orientation to the UK. Dr. Oak asked which ranking was considered the best, or at least the most influential. Overseas, rankings carry more weight, e.g. US News, etc. Parents and students are well aware of rankings. We've fallen behind other institutions in SUNY in the rankings. Cost is a complicating issue, with undergraduate tuition at UB now higher than graduate tuition. Tuition increases have stopped for now.

Mr. Leong pointed out that 2,800 undergraduate students have graduated from UB-SIM programs. UB needs to leverage the young alumni program in Singapore. Ms. Tang may apply to graduate programs at UB, or study abroad in Moscow on a UAlbany program in fall 2016. She tries to meet and make friends with non-Singaporeans. She is used to a multicultural environment. Ms. Dussourd asked about word-of-mouth about UB and Buffalo. It's very positive, Ms. Tang said. However, the high cost is an issue. What advice did she receive from previous SIM students? Don't come in spring! In addition there are issues relating to transportation and the need for a car to get around. Mr. Kohler reiterated the cost

factor and exchange rate—a more recent issue as the Singaporean dollar has weakened against the US dollar. Professor Dunnett said that two years ago the *Straits Times* newspaper surveyed Singapore high school students about their higher education preferences abroad, and five top US institutions identified were Harvard, Stanford, Chicago, Princeton and UB. Word of mouth is critical. Ms. Tang learned about the program from a family friend who was at SIM and came to UB also. Professor Dunnett said the strong reputation is critical for international students. We're now trying to recruit more international students to the UB-SIM programs. Professor Lee asked about online courses at SIM. Mr. Kohler said that several digital access courses in business and a few courses in Psychology and Nutrition were taught online. The provision for online courses is limited by Ministry of Education regulations.

V. Discussion of the CISP Award

The nomination materials for the 2016 award were distributed at the meeting. Professor Engel asked the Council to consider the need to find more nominees for the award. This is a great opportunity to honor a deserving colleague. As a way to elicit more nominations, Professor Brutt-Griffler suggested two tiers—one for junior faculty and one for senior faculty. Professor Horne disagreed, saying that the award should be reserved for senior faculty.

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Wood, Secretary

COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND PROGRAMS

Attendance at the Meeting, October 21, 2015

Present:	Dr. Peter Biehl	Anthropology
	Dr. Janina Brutt-Griffler	Learning and Instruction
	Mr. Oscar A. Budde (ex officio)	Immigration Services
	Dr. Yu-Ping Chang	Nursing
	Ms. Kathy L. Curtis	English Language Institute
	Dr. Stephen C. Dunnett (ex officio)	International Education
	Ms. Ellen Dussourd (ex officio)	International Student & Scholar Services
	Dr. David Engel, Chair	Law
	Dr. David Fertig	Linguistics
	Dr. Graham Hammill	Graduate School
	Dr. John T. Ho	Physics
	Dr. Junhao Hong	Communication
	Ms. Maria S. Horne	Theatre and Dance
	Dr. EunHee Lee	Asian Studies
	Mr. Wei Loon Leong	Alumni Relations
	Ms. Meredith Kolsky Lewis	Law
	Dr. Donald McGuire	Classics
	Dr. H. Lorraine Oak	College of Arts and Sciences
	Dr. Mulchand Patel	Biochemistry
	Dr. Jessie P.H. Poon	Geography
	Dr. John H. Stone	Public Health and Health Professions
	Dr. Claude E. Welch	Political Science
	Ms. Margaret Wells	University Libraries
	Dr. Lillian Williams	African American Studies
	Mr. John J. Wood, Secretary	International Education
Guests:	Ms. Olga Crombie	Study Abroad Programs
	Mr. Christopher Kohler	UB-SIM Programs
	Ms. Sophia Tang	UB-SIM Programs
Excused:	Mr. Dennis Black	Student Affairs
	Dr. Barbara B. Bunker	Psychology
	Dr. Colleen Culleton	Romance Languages and Literatures
	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
	Dr. Wooksoo Kim	Social Work
	Dr. Patrick McDevitt	History
	Ms. Mary Odrzywolski (ex officio)	Study Abroad Programs
	Dr. Pavani Ram	Epidemiology and Environmental Health
	Mr. Joseph Schneider	Law School
	Dr. Surajit Sen	Physics
	Mr. Steven L. Shaw (ex officio)	International Admissions
	Dr. Othman Shibly	Dental Medicine
	Dr. Natalie Simpson	Management
	Dr. Jiyuan Yu	Philosophy