

USA Council on International Education Meeting  
February 17, 2009 – 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
(College of Engineering) EGCB Room 104

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Attending: Isabel Z. Brown, Peggy Delmas, Jim Ellis, Tom Hain, Russ Lea, Steve Morris, Samuel Russ, Vaughn Millner, Alex Sharland, Maggi O'Brien, and Lois Wims

Absent: Sara Majors, Julio Turrens, John Sachs

Reviewed and approved (as amended): at April 13, 2009 meeting

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Lillie Samuels, Secretary, Office of International Education and USACIE

Dr. Ellis passed out minutes from the last meeting of October 28, 2008 and advised the Committee that he will poll them later via email due to the lateness of getting them out.

College Updates: Dr. Brown mentioned that the situation was not going well for the visiting instructor from Mexico. She indicated that some of the problems were probably due to the last minute nature of the arrangements. She said there was a lot he could be doing with regard to tutoring, etc. She mentioned that what he had been doing was great and the students loved him. She was sure that if she had a little more time, the pertinent issues could have been addressed. Regarding visiting scholars: "Our system does not encourage it, so it is not done." She reported that her college has seven French students traveling; a lot to Spain, one to Russia.

Dr. Ellis mentioned that the Spain summer program had to be canceled due to lack of student enrollment. At the time, the Mexico program had seven applications, but needed fifteen to make. He stressed that this program has been around for 15 years. Three students had applied for the CCSA London program. (A hand-out of the USA-CIE scholarship program was passed out). Dr. Ellis mentioned that he had 6 to 7 applications for the scholarships, with a deadline of February 18, 2009. Dr. O'Brien asked if the scholarship applied to medical students and indicated that the materials may not be user-friendly for medical students. Dr. Ellis indicated that all students should apply and that where there appeared to be challenges that the student work around it as best they can but that they should apply. Dr. O'Brien was asked to give suggestions. Dr. Brown suggested that perhaps they could get someone from Medicine involved on the scholarship review committee.

Dr. Morris asked Dr. Wims if the Caldwell scholarship was being awarded this year. It was mentioned that some of the older endowments awards are "under water". A sizeable number of scholarships will not be awarded next year according to Dr. Wims. It was noted that according to the development office the newer endowments were less impacted.

Dr. Ellis reported on the Slovakia program and related endowment. He indicated that there is little information available on it structure causing some confusion but that his office was working on an updated set of documents.

No other college reports.

Dr. Ellis talked about analyzing information on some projects – student mobility. (Hand-outs). He talked about the preliminary results (draft) of surveys from the freshman seminars. The data suggests that

80% of students surveyed were interested in study abroad. According to the survey approximately 60%± of the students indicated they were on some form of financial assistance. Also, a large number indicated that funding was a concern. Handed our document entitled “Top Overall Issues Predicted Growth Areas in U.S. /Foreign Institutions” are looking at semester exchanges. Many foreign partners are looking for exchanges which involve tuition waiver or related agreements.

Dr. Steve Morris reported on the sub-committee on recommendations for the administration related to international education. USA changed its mission and strategic objectives which creates greater opportunities for linkages with foreign institutions. The committee looked at what other institutions are doing and how USACIE is currently organized. The draft report laid out a series of recommendations. It was recommended to move International Education from the School of Continuing Education and Special Programs and place it under Vice President for Academic Affairs. Discussion revolved around the history of why International Education was in Continuing Education. Still, the question remains as to how to strategically locate the office. The discussion also involved how such changes could result in pooling of resources. It was stated that the office needs to be viewed as an institutional office and not a college unit. The support from the School of Continuing Education and Special Programs was recognized and commended. The question is, what is the next step. It was recognized that the timing may be a challenge but that all international activity on campus related to students students, grants, scholars, etc needs to have be strengthened at all levels of coordination.

Discussion also revolved around the need to have a more direct line of communication for IE functions in all colleges and units. It was recommended that each college creates its own internal structure – which is essentially what the members of the USACIE should presently represent. The point was raised that the committee and recommendations should not be looking at what is today, but what will be in five years down the road. Dr. Sharland mentioned that we have to project forward. A & S has a Committee of International Education and the dean appoints that Committee according to Dr. Morris. It was envisioned that perhaps at some point in the future all colleges will have their own internal structure and that representatives from each committee would then form the USACIE.

Dr. Ellis reminded the committee that in order to do the new mission, it takes resources. He suggested that the committee review the funding resource section of the report. It was noted that the Sub-Committee had made a good report and that it had only been circulated internally.

Discussion revolved on how widely this report was circulated already. It was noted that as the report was not final and had not been presented to the Senior VPAA, that the committee would wait until hearing from Dr. Johnson. It was noted that as each member represents a college and is appointed by their respective deans that it was to be expected that conversations about these recommendations would have taken place as “draft” conversation for input. Dr. Millner said that she had talked to Dean Wells about it and that he was aware of it although he had not seen the report.

Dr. Ellis said that he would discuss the report with Dean Wells once the council made its recommendation however most of the items were aspects of other conversations held over the past year. It was also noted that many of the recommendations contained components from several past reviews done by outside consultants. Dr. Isabel Brown made motion to vote on the report and Dr. O’Brien seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to support the recommendations and report and that it be submitted to Dr. Johnson for his feedback. The suggestion was made to amend the report as needed (corrections) and that Dr. Morris and Dr. Ellis would meet with Dr. Johnson to present the council recommendations. It was also recommended to invite Dr. Johnson to the next meeting.

Dr. Sharland asked what role would be required for the colleges to support these recommendations. Dr. Ellis said that the timeline would be to begin in August and to phase in the recommendations based on the response from Dr. Johnson. As the members are at present appointed by their deans the restructuring would have to take place formally through the Senior VPAA and the deans. Dr. Ellis said that he would advise the Committee as soon as a copy had gone to Dr. Johnson; or wait to take recommendations from Dr. Johnson – then give to the committee, so they can share with their deans.

Dr. Ellis gave an update on the Student Center IE Information Area. He mentioned that there were a lot of materials in place. He mentioned that OIE would have some presence over there as soon as we got some furniture. He also introduced information on MEDEX insurance for our students going abroad. He mentioned that the IE fee for study abroad students is now \$360.00. He also mentioned a meeting with Norm Gamache on protocol for using the University's 800 number for a point of contact. In explaining the insurance, he mentioned that certain limitations found in many policies had been removed as this is a corporate policy. List of access numbers are online and a range of security information is now available to each traveler from a range of sources and not solely from the US State Department. He also mentioned that Diana Winslow, MEDEX representative, would be on campus on March 6 and would be in meetings all day and all interested parties were invited to attend.

Dr. Ellis stressed that our study abroad numbers are not going up as he would like. He mentioned that PAWS Around The World Endowment was set up last year and can be added to (Hand-out was circulated). Alumni and faculty contributions to endowments were being matched by USA as he understood it. It was also noted that OIE was working with Career Services on resources for students interested in working abroad.

Dr. Ellis stressed that the Committee let their faculty know that OIE will come to their classes to do study abroad presentations if they desire. Dr. Morris again stressed to talk to deans about the proposal and get back with him.

Dr. Brown recommended to get the OIE four scholarship recipients in the Midweek Memo and Vanguard. Dr. Ellis noted that it may be possible to connect students abroad with students here through the web camera technologies and Dr. Delmas mentioned blogging technology as another idea. It was noted that we should check to see what is permissible to put on the blog. It was also mentioned that OIE is also trying to figure out how to work with Facebook too.

It was recommended that the next meeting will be held in about 1½ months. Lillie would request times later.

With no further issues at the present time, the meeting adjourned.