



**International Advisory Council  
6 December 2018  
Minutes**

Members Present:

<b>College Representatives and Other Voting Members</b>	<b>Ex-Officio Members</b>
1. Arena, Ross Anthony	24. Ardinger, Nick
2. Bardella, Inis Jane	25. Bonnin, Nora
3. Berbic, Amir	26. Engle, Jan
4. Browne, Kevin	27. Farrell, Charles
5. Deanna, Linda	28. Heifetz, Kali
6. Dorevitch, Samuel	29. Kodeski, David
7. Gutierrez, Marty	30. Romano, Jason
8. Hammerschmidt, James	31. Rothamer, Jill
9. Johnson, Annette	32. Tekian, Ara
10. Junker, Laura Lee	33. Thomas, Lynn Ann
11. Keen, Ralph	34. Wang, Jeff
12. Mariscalco, Michele	
13. McClure, Ellen	<b>Guests</b>
14. McCreary, Linda	35. Krymova, Irina
15. McCrillis, Neal	
16. Pac, Patricia	
17. Pfister, Patricia	
18. Schoen, Marieke	
19. Stapel, Mary	
20. Stoll, Megan	
21. Thakral, Charu	
22. Thomas, Michael	
23. Weine, Stevan	

**I. Old Business**

**A. Minutes of previous meeting**

In the interest of time, there was not a discussion of the September minutes. These were distributed previously and will be distributed again to confirm their accuracy.

## **II. Reports from Standing Committees**

### **A. International Partnerships (Marieke Schoen)**

The International Partnerships Committee met three times. Members reviewed best practices at universities recognized for their internationalization and discussed what a UIC policy should include or exclude. A three-person drafting group including Patti Pfister, Inis Bardella and Neal McCrillis created a draft policy that was discussed by the committee on December 5. The chair noted that Pfister was particularly helpful given her work with the UIC Policy Committee.

As a result of the committee's discussion at its last meeting, the draft policy does not include any references to "partnerships" because members of the legal profession understand the word to convey a legal partnership. The draft "International Agreements Policy" presented to the IAC members substitutes the word collaboration(s) for "partnership(s). It was also suggested that the committee should be renamed the International Agreements Committee.

Schoen reviewed all elements of the draft policy although a few small changes are still anticipated. The general response was strongly in support of the draft that will be brought back to the IAC in its final draft at the next meeting. In addition, the committee will start reviewing the submission and review procedures being developed by the Office of Global Engagement.

### **B. Campus Internationalization (Ross Arena)**

There are two primary initiatives being developed by the committee to increase global engagement on the UIC campus.

First, the committee is developing a campus (small "c") international certificate program. The committee looked at similar programs in benchmarked internationalized universities. Based on their research and discussion, Arena outlined a 15-18 credit certificate that would be attractive to undergraduate students across many/most colleges on both campuses. The strategy is to infuse existing majors with international components by enabling students to structure existing course offerings in their major and experiential learning such as study abroad or international internships in Chicago. There would be a need for one mandatory introduction course for students to launch their certificate. In addition, there would be an internationally focused capstone in the student's major approved by a certificate coordinator.

Second, the committee is exploring a few options to increase the degree of global engagement students, faculty and staff experience on our campus. The most important of these is a world map provided each year as part of international student orientation/induction. At the annual event held in Students Centers East & West, new students would place a pin onto the map to mark their home city and country. The maps could be digitized and shared to demonstrate the global character of the UIC community.

Another suggested strategy is to inscribe quotations on benches or other objects. The quotations might also come from UIC international researchers or alumni.

A final suggestion is to install mileage posts on campus showing distances to cities around the world, particularly places from which we draw students and faculty.

During the discussion that followed, Pac and McCrillis mentioned in their meeting with Dave Taeyaerts (Campus Architect) that he advised against putting anything like quotations on permanent fixtures because the uses of different parts of campus could change.

Members also discussed gateway portals into the campus, which might allow multi-lingual signage in the future. In addition, the university is planning to install new electronic directories in UH with electronic bulletin boards that could include global engagement messaging.

### **C. International Students and Scholars (Laura Junker)**

The committee has met once. Among the topics members discussed is the need for international students, especially Teaching Assistants (TAs), to develop their language and cultural proficiencies. One strategy could be to require or strongly encourage all TAs to complete the communication courses offered by the Graduate College (GC 509, GC 510 and GC 511). If students complete all three courses, they could earn a certificate, which could help to increase graduates' employability.

IAC members welcomed the concept but raised concerns about the additional credit hours which would not count toward full-time status on the F-1 visa and which could slow a student's progress toward degree completion.

The committee also discussed strategies for increasing international students' use of the Writing Center and considering ways to expand the services provided by the Writing Center in ways that support non-native English speakers and writers. Jason Romano indicated that the Tutorium in Intensive English does or could offer some of these courses.

Another area of focus for the committee is pulling together funding, housing and other supports for international students. The Internationalization Task Force demonstrated clearly that there is an unmet need for accessible housing for international students and visiting faculty.

A final suggestion is that departments plan regular sessions for new international students in order to support them during their adjustment to UIC, Chicago, the U.S. and American higher education. One idea is to develop international student mentors to provide this kind of support. Although the Office of International Services provides orientation and other programs, many students, particularly graduate students, look to their program and department for help.

McCrillis noted that the Office of Global Engagement has collaborated with the Office of Diversity and Faculty Affairs to develop a workshop for faculty teaching international students. The first of these workshops was offered in October and the next one will be the Thursday before spring classes start. The goal is to offer the workshop regularly to all interested faculty to help them prepare for the unique challenges of teaching our increasingly diverse student population.

Ardinger suggested that we should not assume that the attitudes and behaviors of international students and scholars are a problem to be fixed but something to be appreciated and celebrated.

He urged members to consider approaches that will encourage all faculty, staff and students to embrace and celebrate the many non-U.S. cultures within the UIC community.

#### **D. Study Abroad (Linda McCreary)**

One of the most important recommendations from the committee is to develop a broader definition for study abroad that includes traditional study abroad programs but also international fieldwork, training and research. The current study abroad program model also pre-supposes a large group of students taking a particular class. This frame of mind tends to discourage faculty and departments from recognizing applied, hands-on international learning experiences for individuals or small groups as part of study abroad.

The committee would like to survey colleges to help develop a broader and more inclusive definition for study abroad or international academic activity that encourages more departments and colleges to encourage greater global engagement for all programs.

In addition, the committee believes it is essential to review current practices in order to develop a set of best practices and guidelines for all department and colleges developing study abroad programs. Some of the key areas should include

1. pre-departure orientation,
2. pre-departure and on-site safety and risk mitigation,
3. emergency protocols and responses,
4. course design and management

The committee also recommends greater outreach into and support of colleges so that study abroad options are more visible to students, staff and faculty. This should be coupled with calls for proposals for new programs and seed monies to develop new programs.

The committee will collaborate with the Campus Internationalization Committee in its proposed international certificate. By including experiential cross-cultural learning at the core of such a certificate, UIC will provide an incentive to encourage students' participation in study abroad.

Representatives of several health science colleges mentioned unique challenges they face with study abroad and international students. They agreed that they could learn from each other by reviewing their various challenges and sharing best practices.

#### **III. Other Business**

McCrillis suggested that the IAC should probably meet twice during the spring semester in order to maintain our momentum and finalize our chosen initiatives. He suggested a late February meeting and a late April meeting. Members agreed this was a good plan.

#### **IV. Information (Handouts)**

- A. IAC Meeting Agenda
- B. Recommendations from each IAC Committee

#### **VI. Adjournment**

The IAC adjourned at 11:55.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Kodeski and Neal McCrillis