



International Advisory Council (IAC)
14 April 2020
Zoom Virtual Meeting
Minutes

College Representatives & Other Voting Members	Ex-Officio Members
1. Arena, Ross	1. Bonnin, Nora
2. Art, Jonathan	2. Farrell, Charles
3. Deanna, Linda	3. Fason, Melvin
4. Hammerschmidt, Jim	4. Krymova, Irina
5. Kozłowska, Ana	5. Riddhi, Jain
6. Lau, Alan	6. Tekian, Ara
7. Lewis, Paul	7. Vergara, Joy
8. Mariscalco, Michele	8. Wang, Jeff
9. McClure, Ellen	
10. McCreary, Linda	Guests
11. McCrillis, Neal (Chair)	1. Cabrera Lazarini, Juan José
12. Moss, Tom	2. Kodeski, David
13. Pac, Patricia	
14. Pandit, Shail	
15. Pfister, Patricia	
16. Sidik, Khalifah	
17. Stapel, Mary	
18. Stoll, Megan	
19. Supriyad, Mehta	
20. Thakral, Charu	
21. Thomas, Michael	
22. Uslenghi, George	
23. Vidyarthi, Sanjeev	

I. Introduction of Members and Guests

There were no new members or guests.

II. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The February minutes were placed in the IAC “Box” and attached to the Zoom invitation. There were no deletions, additions or changes to the minutes. Uslenghi moved approval and Tekian seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Office of Global Engagement Updates

A. COVID 19 Responses

McCrillis thanked all the faculty and staff for their dedication and hard work responding to the COVID emergency and continuing to support students despite the stay at home

order and remote working. He also asked everyone to join him in a moment of silence for two long-time UIC staff members who have passed away due to COVID 19 complications.

McCrillis reviewed the work that had been done to assist students who had to return from abroad due to the University's cancellation of spring programs in early March. He also noted that summer study abroad programs have been cancelled. The University is waiting until June to decide on Fall study abroad programs but encouraging students to register on campus in case those programs are cancelled.

The Office of International Services is working remotely to support international students and scholars. OIS conducted a survey to determine the whereabouts of students who are now able to study remotely and to determine students' concerns. From that survey OIS will be hosting four virtual Town Halls during the next four weeks.

B. Study Abroad Policy

The Study Abroad Policy approved by the IAC in February has been reviewed and approved by Committee on Policy and sent to the Committee of Vice Chancellors chaired by the Chancellor. McCrillis expressed his confidence that establishing the first campus-wide policy reviewing the safety and security of study abroad programs would be approved, especially given our experiences during the COVID 19 emergency.

C. Study Abroad Office Executive Director

McCrillis thanked the search committee which was chaired by Ross Arena and included IAC members Ellen McClure, Linda McCreary and Jason Romano. They did an excellent job finding four strong finalists who visited the campus and presented a variety of exciting visions for expanding UIC study abroad. McCrillis also appreciated the participation and feedback he received regarding the candidates. He is happy to report that he made an offer to a candidate who has accepted it. After meeting with the Study Abroad Office team, he will share the news regarding the incoming executive director.

D. OGE Faculty and Staff Awards

As a separate initiative from the proposed Faculty Global Engagement Award, OGE launched a competition to recognize outstanding OGE staff and faculty. This recognition will be given annually to up to three recipients and will include a monetary award.

E. Reminders About UIC Resources

1. Distinguished Visitor Form (<https://oia.uic.edu/visitor/>)
2. International Travel Safety Enrollment (<https://oge.uic.edu/international-travel-safety-enrollment/>)
3. Gallagher Comprehensive International Medical Insurance

IV. Campus Internationalization Committee Report

Thakral began the committee's report by noting that the International Signpost project is complete. Unfortunately, in light of the COVID 19 emergency, OGE has decided to delay installation until a more opportune time when students, faculty and staff are back on campus. Pac noted that the Campus Architect approved locations outside SCE near the Halsted Street bus stop and outside SCW in Arthington Mall. The sign templates are being reviewed by UIC Marketing to ensure they are consistent with the UIC brand guidelines. Thakral expressed her appreciation of Pac's work all year.

Thakral reported that good progress had been made on the initiative to connect the UIC Global “Live, Learn, Grow” classes with the LAS 1st Year Seminar. This will be a great opportunity to engage domestic students in the LAS classes with international students in LLG classes through cross-cultural activities and projects. However, the COVID 19 emergency has greatly increased the workload for faculty who moved to online instruction. McCrillis promised to resume the work of moving this project forward with the aim of launching it in Fall 2021.

V. International Students & Scholars Committee Report

Hammerschmidt reported that OIS designed a simple survey and distributed it to all 3,500 international students. Although the response was not high (368 respondents or 10.5% of students), it provided some important information.

The primary reason for the survey was to determine the location of international students since they are allowed to study remotely during the emergency. The survey suggests that the vast majority of international students remain in the Chicago area or at least in the U.S. In addition, most respondents were not in UIC housing and few are seeking summer housing which was a concern if UIC decided to close residence halls.

In addition, OGE and OIS wanted to know what kinds of concerns or questions students have. Based on the survey responses, OIS is planning a series of four Town Halls on the following topics:

1. Finances and Academics
2. Immigration and Travel
3. Mental Health and Wellness
4. Alumni & OPT

VI. Research and Scholarship Committee Report

Arena asked what is the status of the Dual Degrees and Cotutelles policy approved by the IAC in February. McCrillis stated that the policy had been sent to Dana Wright in early February but he did not know if it had been forwarded to SCEP. He asked Wright for an update on the policy’s status.

Arena noted that the committee is ready to move forward on the International Faculty Award. The first step would be to draft a document setting out criteria and procedures. McCrillis clarified that the award is for “globally engaged faculty” rather than international faculty.

Arena noted that advocating for promotion and tenure guidelines inclusive of international research, teaching and scholarship has been tabled until everyone is back on campus. The committee will resume this effort in collaboration with the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs.

Lastly, Arena noted that he has been working with colleagues to publish several papers related to COVID 19 and he is interested in the committee developing an international research consortium to focus on the importance of physical activity and nutrition in response to disasters. This kind of research group would benefit from strategic partnerships such as Monterrey Tec. McCrillis mentioned that UIC and Monterrey Tec are already exploring several research collaborations. Cabrera Lazarini noted that Monterrey Tec would be very interested in being part of this global research consortium.

VII. Study Abroad Committee Report

McClure reported that the committee has been working on a White Paper outlining a UIC strategy for increasing access and participation in study abroad. She and McCrillis had created a draft which has been reviewed and revised based on feedback from the committee. McCrillis noted that the White Paper was approved by the committee and therefore is coming to the IAC as a recommendation.

McClure noted that the White had had a positive effect during the interviews with SAO Executive Director candidates. The White Paper demonstrated that there is an active group working to support and expand study abroad at UIC. McCreary noted that the White Paper includes best practices from aspirant institutions to guide UIC's future development.

McClure asked members if they were ready to consider the White Paper recommended by the committee. Arena seconded the committee's motion and the White Paper was unanimously approved by the membership.

McCrillis thanked the committee for its work and noted that the incoming SAO Executive Director is excited about using the White Paper as a tool to guide the SAO during the next five years.

VIII. Membership for Next Year's International Advisory Council.

McCrillis thanked the IAC members for their engagement and contributions throughout the year. He stated that the term of service for the IAC is two years with an additional possible second two-year term. Some members have served two years and others one year. He hoped that all members would be willing to continue serving on the IAC. There is value to the group and the campus in having members who have knowledge of the different elements of global engagement.

After some discussion Kodeski suggested that all existing IAC members would be assumed to continue on the IAC unless they indicated to him or McCrillis that they did not wish to continue.

IX. Question, Concerns or Other Business

There was no other business.

X. Adjournment

The IAC adjourned at 3:05.

Respectfully submitted,
David Kodeski and Neal McCrillis