



**International Advisory Council (IAC)  
13 November 2020  
Minutes**

<b>College Representatives &amp; Other Voting Members</b>	<b>Ex-Officio Members</b>
1. Arena, Ross	1. Bonnin, Nora
2. Art, Jonathan	2. Farrell, Charles
3. Browne, Kevin	3. Lazarini, Juan José Cabrera
4. Deanna, Linda	4. Martell, Mark
5. Gutierrez, Marty	5. Martinie, Jim
6. Hammerschmidt, Jim	6. Rausch, Kyle
7. Keen, Ralph	7. Romano, Jason
8. Kozłowska, Anna	8. Tekian, Ara
9. Lau, Alan	9. Thomas, Lynn Ann
10. McClure, Ellen	10. Vergara, Joy
11. McCreary, Linda	11. Wang, Jeff
12. McCrillis, Neal (Chair)	<b>Guests</b>
13. Mehta, Supriya	1. Kodeski, David
14. Moss, Tom	
15. Pac, Patricia	
16. Pandit, Shail	
17. Pfister, Patricia	
18. Sidik, Khalifah	
19. Stapel, Mary	
20. Stoll, Megan	
21. VanOverbeke, Marc	
22. Vidyarthi, Sanjeev	
23. Weine, Steve	

**I. Remembering Tushar Sharma**

McCrillis asked IAC members for a moment of silence to remember Tushar Sharma, a PhD international student in Engineering who was recently killed by the driver of a speeding vehicle.

**II. Introduction of Members and Guests**

All were present at the first meeting except Marc VanOverbeke who introduced himself.

**III. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The September minutes were placed in the IAC Box and distributed via email before the meeting. There being no changes to the minutes, McCrillis asked for a motion to approve. This was moved by Kozłowska and seconded by Pandit. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**IV. Office of Global Engagement Updates**

**A. Incorporation of International Affairs into OGE Central**

McCrillis explained that the Office of International Affairs was recently integrated into the central OGE administration. Having a separate office reflected the pre-2017 decentralized structure in which international units reported to different Vice Provosts or Vice Chancellors. Nora Bonnin will continue in her position as Senior Director of International Affairs managing and supporting international collaborations and serving as UIC's liaison with the Chicago Consular Corps.

### **B. Study Abroad Office**

OGE and its Study Abroad Office are implementing Terra Dotta's Study Abroad Program Management and AlertTraveler software. As UIC develops a University-wide structure, we need tools for campus-wide management and communication. Kyle Rausch has done a great job developing a plan in consultation with other units outside SAO which operate study abroad programs, including field placements and research. The Terra Dotta contract has been submitted to the Contract Services Office, and we hope to begin implementing the software during Spring. Fall 2021 or Spring 2022 study abroad students will be the first ones to use the software.

### **C. [COVID-19 International Travel Guidelines](https://hr.uic.edu/covid-19-roadtorecovery/)**

McCrillis reminded everyone about the University's ongoing restrictions on international travel by students and employees. Recently the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs clarified that graduate students seeking exceptions to travel internationally should follow the same appeal procedures as outlined online for faculty and staff. If the individual's unit and college approve the exception, then the Provost or VCHA would make a final decision.

### **D. International Students and Scholars Support**

OGE has worked with academic and support units to prepare for spring. OIS is delivering weekly reports to academic units regarding initial status (newly arriving) international students so they can arrange at least one on-campus or hybrid class as required by SEVP. McCrillis also worked with Alex Da Silva and others to create a one-page document for students to plan for housing, quarantine, testing and other matters. This document has been shared to ensure that everyone provides clear and consistent information to newly arriving students.

McCrillis also noted that the workshop OGE developed with Diversity to help faculty teaching international students is being developed as an on-demand module. It will be the first online module in the Office of Diversity's "Inclusive Classroom Initiative."

### **V. Old Business**

#### **A. IAC-Approved Proposal for Dual and Cotutelle Degrees**

Based on feedback from the Office of Programs and Academic Assessment, the Graduate College created a proposal to allow students greater flexibility in transfer credits since that will be needed for Masters' students studying abroad for a semester. If the change is approved, then OGE will work with the Graduate College to define dual and *cotutelle* degrees.

#### **B. Global Engagement Faculty Award (GEFA)**

The Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs was very supportive of the IAC proposal, but the Provost decided to delay the launch of GEFA until two other new proposed awards are ready (Diversity and Community Engagement). It is possible GEFA will still be announced during the next cycle if the call is delayed until early 2021 and the other proposed awards are ready.

### **VI. Committee Recommendations**

Arena reported that the Study Abroad Committee has been reviewing a document developed by the Study Abroad Office for proposing and reviewing new study abroad programs. The document shared with the IAC was endorsed by the Study Abroad Committee.

McCrillis asked that the IAC consider approving the procedures document. It is important that the UIC community know these procedures have been reviewed. He reminded everyone that the proposed procedures implement the Study Abroad Policy approved in May 2020 and the U of I International Travel Safety Policy approved in 2019. The campus review process is focused on ensuring UIC offers safe overseas programs after academic units review their academic quality.

Mehta asked if faculty and staff would have assistance preparing proposals. McCrillis indicated that the Study Abroad Office is looking forward to filling that role. Keen moved that the Study Abroad Procedures be approved. McCreary seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

## VII. Committee Updates

### A. *Campus Internationalization Committee (Patricia Pac)*

Pac noted that the international cities signpost project is moving ahead with installation by next fall. She shared mockups and explained each signpost will have six double-sided signs listing 12 cities. The signposts will go in Arthington Mall near SCW and in front of SCE on Halsted.

Tekian asked how the cities were chosen. McCrillis explained that last spring the IAC decided that the cities should reflect the countries which send the largest number of students to UIC.

Pac stated that the committee is also creating and installing multi-lingual “Welcome” banners. Student Affairs and Public & Government Relations have both promised funding so the project will include approximately 16 banners. Based on research on possible locations, the committee is recommending banners at the following locations (all are pairs except two horizontals noted):

<b>East Campus (10 vertical &amp; 2 horizontal)</b>	<b>West Campus (4 vertical)</b>
South of CTA between Jefferson and SCW	West entrance of Arthington Mall at SCW
South of above toward Stevenson & Grant	West entrance to the College of Pharmacy
East of Douglas Hall	
East of Taft & Addams Halls	
North of Science & Engineering Laboratories	
West entrance of Quad (1 large horizontal)	
East entrance of Quad (1 large horizontal)	

McCrillis shared a spreadsheet that showed which languages were most common in the First Year Student Surveys (2017 & 2018) and the Chicago Census, as well as the languages spoken in countries which send the greatest number of international students to UIC.

IAC members suggested adding more banners on West Campus, considering other locations or creating an electronic banner. Pac mentioned that there are only a limited number of locations with brackets on light posts. Pandit suggested avoiding overlap with the cities signposts. Others wondered if the languages should be limited to one per country (e.g. Hindi for India).

McCrillis mentioned that the banners would have to be replaced every year or two, so they could have another set of banners with different languages. Another member suggested using different

languages on each side of banner, and Pac agreed to investigate that. Arena suggested that digital versions of the banners be used on flat screen displays inside buildings.

Pac also noted that the cross-cultural collaboration of LAS 110 First Year Seminars and ELSI (Live, Learn and Grow) classes for international students has been re-launched. The plan is to develop a two-week module that instructors could adopt for Fall 2021 classes.

#### *B. Research and Scholarship Committee (Supriya Mehta)*

Mehta indicated the first initiative is a grass-roots campaign to include international work in Promotion and Tenure guidelines. She took the Department of Physical Therapy guidelines to her School of Public Health. McCreary is also discussing this with Nursing. Thomas offered to bring it to Engineering, and Kozlowska plans to share it with the Library.

Some members wondered if this effort could be supported by the administration. Keen pointed out that colleges are already required to add diversity criteria. Arena added that the new P&T standards in Physical Therapy gives a boost to international activities but are not mandatory.

Mehta shared some preliminary work on a possible international research seed grant program. One question is whether these should be open to staff. Martell pointed out that in some units, such as Cultural Centers, staff lead the research and teaching enterprise. Mehta indicated that the committee will coordinate its work with the Office of Research and Development.

Lastly, Mehta mentioned that the committee is exploring models for international conferences (discipline-based or focused on international partners) and international research incubators.

#### *C. International Students & Scholars Committee (Marcio da Fonseca)*

McCrillis shared that Fonseca was not been able to join due to problems with Zoom. However, Fonseca and the committee are exploring short-term housing (possibly at UIC) for students and scholars. In addition, the committee is reviewing UIC's on-boarding, starting with a survey they hope to conduct with the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and Postdoctoral Association.

#### *D. Study Abroad Committee (Ross Arena)*

In addition to the study abroad program review, Arena indicated that the committee is expanding international virtual exchanges such as his department's collaboration with Monterrey Tec last summer. Key factors will be creating a group of reliable international partners and providing sustained UIC support. Another initiative is creating new materials that will inform faculty about study abroad opportunities. Finally, the committee hopes to develop a grant program for faculty to develop and lead study abroad programs.

### **VIII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place during early February.

### **IX. Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **X. Adjournment**

The IAC adjourned at 1:05.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Kodeski and Neal McCrillis