



**International Advisory Council (IAC)
21 September 2020
Minutes**

College Representatives & Other Voting Members	Ex-Officio Members
1. Arena, Ross Anthony	1. Bonnin, Nora
2. Art, Jonathan	2. Farrell, Charles
3. Deanna, Linda	3. Fason, Melvin
4. Fonseca, Marcio da	4. Martell, Mark
5. Gutierrez, Martha	5. Martinie, Jim
6. Hammerschmidt, Jim	6. Rausch, Kyle
7. Keen, Ralph	7. Romano, Jason
8. Kozłowska, Anna	8. Tekian, Ara
9. Lewis, Paul	9. Thomas, Lynn Ann
10. Mariscalco, Michele	10. Vergara, Joy
11. McClure, Ellen	11. Wang, Jeff
12. McCreary, Linda	
13. McCrillis, Neal (Chair)	Guests
14. Mehta, Supriya	1. Kodeski, David
15. Moss, Tom	2. Lorkovich, Malinda
16. Pac, Patricia	
17. Pandit, Shail	
18. Pfister, Patricia	
19. Stapel, Mary	
20. Stoll, Megan	
21. Thakral, Charu	
22. Thomas, Michael	
23. Uslenghi George	
24. Vidyarthi, Sanjeev	
25. Weine, Steve	

I. Introduction of Members and Guests

McCrillis, asked each member of the IAC to introduce themselves.

II. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The April minutes were placed in the Box at the end of the spring semester and distributed via email before this meeting. There being no changes to the minutes, McCrillis asked for a motion to approve them. Approval was moved by Mariscalco and seconded by Pfister. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Office of Global Engagement Updates

A. OGE Website Improvements

McCrillis reviewed several new elements which have been added to the main page of the OGE website during recent months. These include the “How Do I...” pages for Faculty/Staff and for students. Other new elements include pages for the “UIC Global Partnership” and “Study Abroad” (to include upcoming program proposal procedures). A forthcoming webpage will be for the UIC—Monterrey Tec partnership.

B. International Student Enrollments

The past months presented several major challenges for prospective international students, including a once-in-a-century pandemic. The best news is that UIC’s enrollment increased overall for a 6th record year, and international student enrollment, although down (3,402), was almost at the same level as Fall 2018 (3,496). The development of online instruction, including UIC Global’s UIC Live program, was a key mitigating strategy. The fact that 531 international graduate students requested deferrals suggests enrollment will rebound when visa offices reopen.

C. Study Abroad

McCrillis introduced the new Study Abroad Office Executive Director, Kyle Rausch, who joined UIC in late May. He thanked the search committee for their wonderful work and noted the successful experience Rausch has had developing faculty-led programs which will be critical to providing greater access and participation for UIC’s students.

McCrillis also noted that Rausch has been working on developing draft procedures for proposing and reviewing new study abroad programs at UIC. This initiative will be part of the report from the Study Abroad Committee.

D. COVID-19 International Travel Guidelines

McCrillis mentioned the University’s guidelines on international travel and encouraged everyone to review these guidelines which have continued largely unchanged since spring:

<https://hr.uic.edu/covid-19-roadtorecovery/>.

E. Terra Dotta Software

The creation of UIC’s first policy on study abroad combined with our experiences responding to incidents and emergencies—particularly COVID-19—made it clear that we need a comprehensive software management system for study abroad. OGE has been exploring the purchase of the market-leading software produced by Terra Dotta. In addition to online student application and review, the software facilitates management of the programs and participants before departure, during the program and after reentry. In addition, the AlertTraveler component allows real-time information on participants’ whereabouts and communications in an emergency. OGE will be working with all units across the campus to ensure that the software supports our students, faculty and staff.

IV. Highlights of 2018-2019 IAC Achievements

McCrillis wanted to begin the new year by remembering key successes from last year. He expressed his appreciation for last year’s committee chairs who moved UIC forward on several internationalization initiatives:

- Charu Thakral and Shail Pandit—Campus Internationalization
- Linda Deanna and Jim Hammerschmidt—International Students and Scholars
- Ross Arena—International Research and Scholarship
- Ellen McClure—Study Abroad

A. [UIC Study Abroad Policy](#)

The Study Abroad Committee developed UIC’s first campus policy on study abroad. The key features are that all new study abroad programs must be reviewed by the campus to ensure the health and safety of students. Existing programs will also be reviewed periodically. The policy was approved in May and is now in effect.

B. Study Abroad White Paper

The Study Abroad Committee’s White Paper, “[Increasing University of Illinois at Chicago Students’ Participation in and Access to Study Abroad](#),” analyzed UIC’s historical strengths and weaknesses and articulated multiple strategy for increasing participation in study abroad.

C. International Cities Signpost

The Campus Internationalization Committee completed planning for the creation of two international cities signposts to be placed outside SCE and SCW. The colleges of Applied Health Science and Business Administration agreed to fund the respective signposts although installation was delayed in light of COVID-19. McCrillis asked Pandit if he could confirm College of Business Administration funding as Arena has done regarding the SCW signpost.

D. Dual and Cotutelle Degrees Policy Proposal

The Research and Scholarship Committee developed a proposal to allow UIC departments to create dual degrees with international partners by allowing more credit hours to be shared. The committee also proposed endorsing *cotutelle* doctoral degrees to facilitate research collaborations with international partners. Both policies were approved by the IAC and have moved forward to the Graduate College.

E. Global and Cross-Cultural Studies Certificate

The Cross-Cultural and Global Studies Certificate was developed and proposed last spring by Business Administration and Applied Health Sciences. Although there is additional work still to be completed by the colleges, McCrillis hopes the certificate will be available in Fall 2021.

V. Old Business

Since the April 2020 IAC meeting, a working group investigated and developed a recognition for faculty members who make outstanding contributions to UIC’s internationalization. The committee articulated more than a half dozen criteria that would be considered such as supporting international students, developing international partnerships and developing study abroad programs. The working group believed it is important that the award be included with other faculty awards organized by the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs (VPFA).

The Global Engagement Faculty Award (GEFA) was approved by the Research and Scholarship Committee in June and is being brought forward to the IAC for consideration. Pandit moved that the IAC approve the GEFA proposal and Vergara seconded the motion. The proposal was unanimously approved, and McCrillis will share it again with the VPFA.

VI. Members on IAC Committees

McCrillis reminded everyone that each member is asked to participate in one of the committees. These are the real working groups that produce the IAC recommendations. He has already assigned each IAC member to a committee based on where he thought they might contribute most while also seeking to ensure each committee is diverse in its membership. However, if anyone wishes to switch committees, they should email McCrillis.

VII. IAC Committee Priorities for 2019-2020

A. Campus Internationalization Committee (Patricia Pac)

Speaking about last year's initiatives, Pac noted that OGE decided to delay the collaboration between LAS 110 First Year Seminars and Tutorium's Live, Learn and Grow international students' classes. The committee will revive this initiative for Fall 2021. Pac also shared illustrations of the international cities signposts which she hopes will be installed this year.

As one of the proposed new initiatives in keeping with the 2018 Internationalization Plan, Pac proposed creation and installation of multi-lingual "Welcome" outdoor banners at entrances to the campus. The committee would need to develop design and content, but she hopes the signs could be installed in early 2021 with OGE covering the costs.

Pac suggested a second initiative would be exploring foreign language instruction outside of the foreign language course offerings of LAS. These would integrate language study into other academic programs. The committee would need to explore how courses could incorporate language study. She is looking forward to talking with McClure (LAS) and Romano (TIE).

The committee's last initiative is developing cross-cultural programming such as international lunches, global dialogues or other programs. The goal would be to expand existing programs to promote engagement and cultural exchange between domestic and international communities at UIC. She hopes to collaborate with existing initiatives in OIS, the Cultural Centers and cultural student organizations. Vergara and Hammerschmidt indicated they would be happy to help.

B. International Students & Scholars Committee (Marcio da Fonseca)

Fonseca asked Hammerschmidt to update the IAC on last year's initiatives which are being carried forward. Hammerschmidt indicated an important issue is obtaining better options than Campus Care for international exchange students and scholars. Another issue is housing for international students and scholars.

Fonseca hoped that the committee could continue the work of finding better options for housing, possibly using on-campus housing for short-term accommodation so new graduate students and scholars could look for appropriate off-campus housing after they arrived.

Fonseca also indicated that he hoped the committee could review current on-boarding processes (esp. registration) in order to improve the experiences of international students and scholars.

Vergara asked if there any virtual programs/events for international students coming up. She would happy to promote these events in UIC Connection and provided her email address (Rvergara@uic.edu). Hammerschmidt indicated that OIS had just hosted a virtual gathering and

will continue these twice monthly. He promised to have someone from OIS send Vergara the activities calendar, including the schedule for OIS Town Hall Meetings

C. Research and Scholarship Committee (Supriya Mehta)

Mehta shared the key initiatives for the committee during the coming year. These include disseminating the Promotion and Tenure criteria developed by the Department of Physical Therapy in hopes that it can be used by other academic units.

In addition, Mehta would like to explore establishing International Research Seed Grants. The committee will need to explore the scope, language, eligibility and amounts before any grant could be finalized.

Longer term Mehta hoped that the committee can begin exploring an annual international conference and creating an International Research Incubator.

D. Study Abroad Committee (Ross Arena)

Arena suggested that one of the initiatives this year is developing virtual international teaching collaborations with a few core partner universities. It would be important to establish the necessary infrastructure and support to sustain the effort. He hoped that the Center for Teaching Excellence and Study Abroad Office will help provide that support.

Another initiative will be working to ensure study abroad information and materials are part of recruitment and orientation for students. It's also possible study abroad could be made more visible in the Cultural Centers and elsewhere to increase awareness and engagement. He plans to include the SAO Director in these discussions.

The committee will also develop proposals for faculty grants to develop and lead study abroad programs. This might be travel grants to faculty or staff to develop faculty-led study abroad programs, both 1-2-week "embedded" programs and longer stand-alone programs, etc.

Lastly Arena is looking forward to working with the SAO Director to explore the new campus procedures for proposing and reviewing study abroad programs and investigating software platforms such as Terra Dotta.

IV. Plans for the Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place during early to mid-November.

V. Other Business

There was no other business.

VI. Adjournment

The IAC adjourned at 12:30.

Respectfully submitted,
David Kodeski and Neal McCrillis