



**International Advisory Council (IAC)**  
**12 February 2021**  
**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. Fonseca, Marcio da	5. Miguelez Fernandez, Anabel
6. Gutierrez, Marty	6. Rausch, Kyle
7. Hammerschmidt, Jim	7. Tekian, Ara
8. Keen, Ralph	8. Thomas, Lynn Ann
9. Kozlowska, Anna	9. Vergara, Joy
10. Lau, Alan	10. Wang, Jeff
11. Lewis, Paul	
12. McClure, Ellen	<b>Guests</b>
13. McCreary, Linda	1. Kodeski, David
14. McCrillis, Neal (Chair)	
15. Mehta, Supriya	
16. Moss, Tom	
17. Pac, Patricia	
18. Pfister, Patricia	
19. Sidik, Khalifah	
20. Stapel, Mary	
21. Stoll, Megan	
22. Uslenghi, George	

**I. Introduction of New Members and Guests**

All attendees were present in previous meetings.

**II. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The November 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. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**III. Office of Global Engagement Updates**

**A. Responding to Int’l Student & Scholar Emergencies (Procedures & Insurance)**

McCrillis reminded IAC members of the tragic loss of Tushar Sharma last November. He hoped that we could review how our response procedures might be improved in order to coordinate various units on campus, and support students and their families. He also suggested that we might explore supplemental insurance to cover repatriation and other costs not provided by Campus Care. Deanna stated that she would contact VC Rex Tolliver and let him know she was planning to include OGE representation in a review of existing procedures.

**B. Study Abroad Terra Dotta Implementation**

The Study Abroad Office has started to implement the Terra Dotta's software and will be working with other units to ensure Banner integration. Rausch is the lead person for UIC on this effort. We expect to have our first students using the software in Summer or Fall for programs that will run during Spring 2022 and later.

### **C. Study Abroad Office Website Overhaul**

McCrillis noted that SAO has overhauled and reorganized its website based on user groups. Rausch asked IAC members visit the website which he believed will be much easier to navigate. McCrillis added that there is a new component which is a "Family and Friends" section.

### **D. Chancellor's FirstGen Flames Abroad Program**

In December Chancellor Amiridis asked OGE to develop for a proposal that would create greater student access to study abroad and encourage participation in programs developed by UIC. As a result, Rausch developed the FirstGen Flames Abroad Program which will be launched this spring with \$20,000 in support from the University. There are two innovative elements to the program. First, SAO will be recruiting traditionally underrepresented first-year students to join a cohort that will participate in workshops throughout their time at UIC. Second, each participant will be guaranteed a fixed amount of funding—depending upon the length of the program but \$2,000 on average—to participate in a UIC faculty-directed or exchange program.

### **E. COVID-19 International Travel Guidelines (<https://hr.uic.edu/covid-19-roadtorecovery/>)**

Fonseca asked about student travel, including study abroad so McCrillis reminded everyone about the University's ongoing restrictions on international travel. Undergraduate study abroad summer programs have also been suspended. McCrillis has raised with the Provost the issue of when travel (both student and employee) will resume at more normal levels, but she indicated it will have to be considered with many other planning issues as we move toward more vaccinations and the easing of travel restrictions generally.

### **F. Global Virtual Exchange Classroom (G-VEC) and Flames International Network**

McCrillis announced the launch of international virtual exchange as UIC's "Global Virtual Exchange Classroom" or "G-VEC." The SAO website has G-VEC resources for faculty planning to or teaching G-VEC courses (<https://studyabroad.uic.edu/faculty-advisors/gvec/>). In addition, OGE will be asking our international partners to join the "International Flames Network" of G-VEC partners willing to assist UIC faculty seeking teaching collaborators abroad.

### **G. Chicago Consular Corps Scholarship**

Based on the Internationalization Strategic Plan's focus upon expanding cross-cultural co-curricular opportunities, McCrillis is exploring the possibility of converting some or all of the Chicago Consular Corps Scholarships into international student peer leader stipends. McCrillis stated he had hosted an initial brainstorming meeting with potential UIC partners and hoped to develop a proposal for a Fall 2021 launch.

## **IV. Old Business**

### **A. Masters Degrees Transfer Credit Policy Approved**

McCrillis shared the good news that the Faculty Senate has approved a more flexible and uniform transfer policy. Beginning in Fall 2021, Masters students under the Graduate College will be able to transfer in up to 40% of their program's credits. This will help ensure that colleges and departments which support contract programs and/or semester abroad opportunities will have the flexibility to allow students to transfer in a full semester of coursework.

## **V. Committee Recommendations**

There were no committee recommendations.

## **VI. Committee Updates**

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

Pac announced that we now have sufficient funding from several sources to hang 30-34 multi-lingual welcome banners. McCrillis shared the updated list of languages that represent UIC's linguistic community. The list includes google translations for each language, and he asked for IAC members to help correct or verify these translations.

Pac 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-started. The plan is to develop a two-week module that instructors could adopt for Fall 2021 classes.

The committee is exploring ways to expand language learning amongst students who typically do not study foreign languages at UIC. The working group met once already and will be meeting again soon. Already there has been one concrete outcome in the creation of the #GoGlobalUIC aggregator hashtag which OGE launched in late December.

The last initiative on which the committee is working is increasing and better integrating co-curricular programming. Office of International Services and the Center for Student Involvement has already agreed to cross-promote each other's activities.

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

Fonseca provided an update on the short-term housing initiative. He was disappointed that although UIC Housing seemed interested in addressing this need when committee members met with them, they simply sent the information about the existing SSR option on West Campus.

On a more positive note, Fonseca shared that UIC Global has apartments off-campus they are willing to sub-lease. In addition, representatives from the Letterman (formerly Automatic Lofts) met with McCrillis. Lettermen is preparing a proposal for one-month summer rentals. These units have private rooms and baths with shared kitchens and living rooms. At \$999 per month, these furnished apartments would be attractive and competitively priced.

Fonseca stated he wanted to return to concerns raised about University on-boarding of international scholars and graduate student assistants. He hoped that Martinie will be able to participate in this discussion along with Thomas who has worked in this area for many years.

Lastly, Fonseca indicated that Miguelez Fernandez is working on a survey for graduate students. She is gathering feedback from UIC Global and Campus Housing regarding the questionnaire. Fonseca hopes to have the survey out before the next IAC meeting.

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

Mehta provided an update on the effort to publicize best practices for incorporating global engagement into Promotion and Tenure. She has P&T documents from several colleges and departments on the West Campus. In addition, she and McCrillis met with the LAS Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and hope to receive information from Engineering and the Library.

Mehta asked McCrillis to outline the Office of Global Engagement's initiative to expand international research collaborations. McCrillis explained that when OGE integrated the Office of International Affairs, he decided to reorient the existing John Nuveen Fund to support targeted internationalization strategies. As a result, OGE is launching the "Nuveen Grant to Promote

Collaborative Research with Strategic International Partners.” OGE tested the concept last Fall with a call for collaborative research joint grant applications from engineering faculty at UIC and Monterrey Tec, an existing strategic partner. The success of this effort convinced McCrillis that this initiative should be done annually across the campus.

Moving on to the international conference initiative, Mehta reviewed several models such as a campus-wide forum (U. of Iowa), college-specific conferences (SPH Innovations in Global Health), and problem-solving symposia. She pointed out how important it is to consider goals as well as potential resources and ROI.

McClure expressed concern about Nuveen Funds being diverted away from past initiatives as some UIC units have very little funding. Uslenghi pointed out that many discipline conferences are very large (1,000+ attendees), and UIC does not have the facilities to host such events. That means visitors would not spend any significant time on our campus. In response McCrillis suggested that smaller international symposia might be the best vehicle. He also noted that OGE did not plan to shift all Nuveen Funds to the two new initiatives being discussed.

Mehta returned to the Promotion and Tenure processes. She reviewed the varied ways in which colleges have succeeded in establishing criteria that recognize global engagement work. McClure expressed concern that these efforts might lead to undue recognition of “international fame,” but Arena and Mehta made it clear that the best practices in colleges consider and recognize a very wide-range of global engagement activities. McCrillis suggested the next step is to ask Faculty Affairs if they would host the best practices documents for broader consideration among departments and colleges.

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

Arena praised the work of SAO Executive Director Rausch who has been crucial to the committee’s success. Rausch brought to the committee a promotional study abroad brochure which is very attractive. Ross hoped it could be used to advocate among faculty and students.

The committee gave feedback on Rausch’s efforts to create a Study Abroad Program Development Grant. This is essential for UIC to expand its program and increase participation.

Rausch also took the lead in submitting an U.S.-Mexico Innovation Fund Grant. The grant would fund the start-up of a UIC-Monterrey Tec collaboration “Healthy Living and Community Empowerment after the Pandemic” in Chiapas, Mexico.

#### **VII. Next Meeting**

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

#### **VIII. Other Business**

Fonseca asked if there are any updates on student visas. Hammerschmidt responded that all changes proposed by the Trump administration have been rescinded, and DACA has also been restored. It is not clear how the Biden administration will view online courses for international students. He also noted that H1-B applications continue to be submitted and reviewed.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

The IAC adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Kodeski and Neal McCrillis