



International Advisory Council
5 September 2018
Minutes

Members Present:

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Schoen, Marieke Dekker marieke@uic.edu ;	

I. Old Business

A. Minutes of previous meeting

None. This was the inaugural meeting of the International Advisory Council (IAC).

II. Reports from Standing Committees

A. Campus Internationalization

None. This was the inaugural meeting of the International Advisory Council (IAC).

B. International Partnerships

None. This was the inaugural meeting of the International Advisory Council (IAC).

C. International Students and Scholars

None. This was the inaugural meeting of the International Advisory Council (IAC).

D. Study Abroad

None. This was the inaugural meeting of the International Advisory Council (IAC).

III. New Business

A. Self-Introduction by Members

B. Provost's Welcome

Susan Poser thanked IAC members for their willingness to serve. The provost also welcomed Paul Lewis from John Marshall Law School, which we hope will soon become integrated with UIC.

The existence of the IAC and the willingness of members to serve speaks to the existing commitment to internationalization as well as the increased interest elicited by last year's Task Force for Internationalization and Global Engagement. The Task Force's Report (2018) provides a plan for UIC to become an international leader in research, scholarship, and innovation, and create a globally connected campus community.

Dr. Poser articulated UIC's uniqueness as an outstanding Research I university with remarkably high levels of diversity ("majority minority"), financial need (60% of undergraduates are Pell-eligible) and first generation college students (40% of undergraduates). Our increased global engagement will be a key factor in UIC's future success in scholarship, teaching and innovation. She encouraged the IAC members to be ambitious in moving UIC toward greater global engagement.

C. Outline of IAC

The Vice Provost for Global Engagement and IAC Chair, Neal McCrillis, outlined the scope of the IAC's work as an advisory body for UIC and the Office of Global Engagement. Initially there will be four committees working on key aspects of the task force's internationalization strategy. Each IAC member and non-voting ex-officio member will serve on one of the committees. Most members have been tentatively assigned to a committee, but he would welcome members switching committees or adding themselves to a second committee if desire. They should send a request to him and the committee chair.

The committees will report to the IAC at its meetings each Fall and Spring semesters. The chair anticipates that the IAC will meet three or four times annually. The chairs of the committees, the IAC chair and the Associate Vice Provost for Global Engagement

will meet regularly throughout the year as an IAC Steering Committee, coordinating the work of the four committees and setting the agenda for IAC meetings.

McCrillis noted that he has created an IAC “Box” where all members will have access (as “Viewer/Uploader”) to the documents. Included in the Box is the membership list and a list of members’ emails.

McCrillis asked that each committee chair explain the primary tasks of facing their committee for the coming year.

D. Campus Internationalization

Ross Arena noted that one focus of the committee is how to create a presence on campus—a physical space (or spaces)—that demonstrates UIC’s global engagement. Another emphasis is developing some kind of curricular initiative. The Task Force Report had suggested a global leadership certificate. He felt this might work well for a variety of students, including graduate students in health sciences and international students as well as undergraduates generally.

He asked anyone who was interested to contact him about joining his committee or providing information to share.

E. International Students and Scholars

Laura Junker indicated that she and others had heard a variety of concerns from international graduate students including, for example, a Chinese student with a grievance who was concerned she would lose her TA position. She felt she was in a very vulnerable position and many international students do not know what support and protections they may have at UIC, which can help them, be more productive. International students face so many challenges but we want them to have every opportunity to be successful at UIC.

McCrillis mentioned several Task Force Report recommendations, including an international faculty reception, support for faculty teaching international students, accessible housing, and easier and speedier processing of appointments.

F. International Partnerships

Marieke Schoen began by emphasizing the university needs to think about campus-wide policies. This will be the starting point for her committee. It is an essential element for a global engagement foundation at UIC. She hopes that the committee’s work will be completed by 2019.

McCrillis noted that UIC does not have a university policy on international partnerships.

G. Study Abroad

Linda McCreary emphasized the need for UIC “to catch up.” In addition, UIC needs campus-wide policies to ensure we have safe and academically rigorous programs. The goal is to develop more accessible opportunities that are highly visible on campus.

She also emphasized the need to support faculty, including finding funding sources for both students and faculty.

Finally, the Task Force had recommended creating gateway courses that could lead to study abroad opportunities.

H. General Discussion

Sam Davidovitch asked why, given our Research I character, there was not a committee focusing on faculty issues, particularly international research and scholarship? McCrillis responded that this was a very good point and one the Steering Committee had discussed. The feeling was that the International Partnerships Committee would probably complete its work after one year. At that point, a faculty-focused committee could be formed in Fall 2019. Supporting international research and scholarship will be challenging but it will be a vital and ongoing initiative to increase UIC's global engagement.

Arena also felt that the work of the committees overlaps and that he believes a research and scholarship committee would be better able to move forward after key foundational advances are made this year.

Patricia Pac offered to help with the Campus Internationalization Committee, particularly with ideas to help UIC look and feel more globally engaged. She has a great deal of experience with design.

Linda Deanna mentioned that Arena and McClure are the only two faculty members on the Campus Internationalization Committee and wondered if that would weaken it? Deegan suggested that Arena and McClure would provide valuable academic input. McCrillis suggested that committee chairs are free to recruit others to their committees if they feel they are missing necessary perspectives.

Several members mentioned that it is vital that UIC ensure participants' safety and security in study abroad programs. Coumbe-Lilley also pointed out the need for programs to be accessible and affordable. McCrillis mentioned that the Task Force Report provide an excellent starting point for each committee's work.

IV. Information (Handouts)

- A. IAC Member List
- B. IAC and Committees Guidelines

V. Other Business

None

VI. Adjournment

The IAC adjourned at 11:16.

Respectfully submitted,
David Kodeski