



International Advisory Council (IAC)
19 November 2019
Minutes

College Representatives & Other Voting Members	Ex-Officio Members
1. Arena, Ross Anthony	1. Bonnin, Nora
2. Deanna, Linda	2. Deegan, Chris
3. Hammerschmidt, Jim	3. Fletcher, Kiely
4. Johnson, Annette	4. Gutierrez, Marty
5. Keen, Ralph	5. Thomas, Lynn Ann
6. Lau, Alan	
7. Mariscalco, Michele	
8. McClure, Ellen	Guests
9. McCreary, Linda	1. Kodeski, David
10. McCrillis, Neal (Chair)	
11. Mehta, Sypriya	
12. Moss, Tom	
13. Pac, Patricia	
14. Pandit, Shail	
15. Pfister, Patricia	
16. Stapel, Mary	
17. Stoll, Megan	
18. Thakral, Charu	
19. Thomas, Michael	
20. Uslenghi, George	

I. Introduction of Members and Guests

McCrillis asked each IAC member to introduce themselves since there are new members.

II. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The September minutes were placed in the IAC “Box” and distributed at the meeting. McCreary noted that she was not present at the September meeting so she could not have make the statement attributed to her under “Gallagher Comprehensive Insurance.” The sentence was changed to read “It was asked if anyone at UIC had had to use the benefits of the Gallagher policy in the past.” The revised minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Office of Global Engagement Updates

A. Global and Cross-Cultural Studies Certificate

McCrillis announced that the Global and Cross Cultural Studies Certificate has been approved by both sponsoring colleges (AHS and CBA). The certificate has been forwarded to Dana Wright to ask her to review it before it is submitted to SCEP.

B. Travel & Expense Management (TEM) Customer Advocacy Group

McCrillis has volunteered to serve on the newly formed TEM Customer Advisory Group. At the first meeting the business office asked for feedback from the group regarding problems with the TEM software. Based on the responses, the business office will be doing an RFP in January to investigate a possible replacement software.

C. “Foreign Influences in Higher Education”

The Office of Global Engagement (OGE) has started to work with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research in a coordinated response to concerns raised by federal authorities. McCrillis noted that the legitimate problems do not reflect the bulk of UIC’s global engagement. Pfister mentioned that her office has been sending reminders to encourage compliance with RNUA and other reporting requirements.

D. International Travel Safety Enrollment (ITS) and Gallagher International Insurance

Enrollment in ITS is mandatory for students traveling internationally and strongly recommended for UIC employees. McCrillis noted that the enrollment website works, although updates will be needed. Fortunately OGE has a staff person who will make updates. There is also more detailed enrollment instructions on the website. McCrillis asked that IAC members advocate for using ITS and the Gallagher insurance which is free to all employees traveling internationally.

Deanna asked what the consequences are for students who do not comply. McCrillis noted that we are working continuously and diligently on this. He noted that a new TEM software might be configured to require pre-departure entries such as documentation of ITS enrollment.

Deanna noted that the usual process when a student is not compliant with university policy is that disciplinary action is taken. McCrillis suggested that OGE might adopt wording processes from Student Affairs. Deanna suggested that non-compliant students could be routed to her office.

Arena suggested that having the ITS requirement in as many places as possible would increase compliance. Deegan stated that ITS enrollment is mandatory for all study abroad students and the Study Abroad Office does not register students for classes if they have not complied.

Deanna said that many graduate students receive travel awards and the processes for these could include a compliance message. She also suggested that student government could be approached to get the messaging out regarding non-curricular student travel. Arena wondered if the compliance statement could be included in syllabi for courses with international travel. Pandit noted that in order to obtain travel visas, travelers often need to provide proof of insurance. This might be a way to increase ITS enrollment. McCreary noted that nursing uses an international travel checklist to ensure students comply with requirements. Deegan stated that the university has a responsibility to protect itself as well as help students and employees travel safely.

McCrillis stated that he will work with Deanna to improve and expand compliance efforts.

IV. Campus Internationalization Committee Report

Thakral stated that the committee has been working on two initiatives. The first of these is outdoor signposts, and Pac has been instrumental in this. Pac made a short presentation on the signposts and passed around a sample of the sign material. She is working with the campus architect who will decide where to place the signposts at Student Center East and Student Center West. The 12-14 foot signposts will be very durable and theft-resistant. QR codes can also be added to the signs linking the city destinations to information about the city, country or culture.

Keen expressed how eager he is to publicize UIC's connections to the various locations. For example, a QR code on a "Warsaw" sign could be linked to Chicago's large Polish community and UIC's Polish studies program. Shail noted that logistics should be considered carefully so that QR content is delivered reliably. In addition, it is important that an office take responsibility for maintaining and updating content. He noted that OGE is ready to take on that role. McClure suggested connecting the signs to study abroad programs or events such as a film series.

Pac suggested that there would be challenges but she believed they could have the signposts installed by the end of the spring semester. She noted that it would be a complicated and delicate task to decide which twelve cities would be on the signposts. McCrillis suggested there are multiple rationales for deciding, and it will not be a linear decision-making process.

Mariscalco asked if other UIC campuses could be included, particularly Peoria and Rockford, especially since there are international students on these campuses. Given the cost of addition signposts, Arena suggested that colleges or departments could be asked to support or sponsor the signposts. He thought Applied Health Science would be interested.

Thakral noted that the second committee initiative is pairing international students in the "Live Learn Grow" courses with "domestic" students in the LAS First Year Seminars. McCrillis noted that although UIC is a very diverse campus, students tend to segment themselves into identity groups, and international and domestic students often do not have opportunities for meaningful interactions. McCrillis suggested this strategy is likely to be more successful and sustainable than creating stand-alone programming. He noted that the teaching faculty would decide whether they wanted to participate, and OGE would provide support to help faculty members develop appropriate pedagogy and projects based on the level of the students (particularly English proficiency levels) and the number of class sessions being coordinated.

Keen noted that he would be following up on a conversation he had had with McCrillis to bring OGE into the Honors College Diversity Committee.

V. International Students & Scholars Committee Report

Hammerschmidt gave a short presentation reviewing the work of the committee he is co-chairing with Deanna. At the first committee meeting they affirmed responsibilities and reviewed various concerns. They identified three priorities: housing, health insurance and campus safety. The committee's plan is to invite higher level administrators from each of these areas to address the committee regarding their concerns. They have already heard from the Chief of UIC Police and will be inviting Housing to address the committee. Later in the year the committee will present their plan with recommendations to the IAC.

An IAC member asked if we could help international students be more aware of rules and regulations affecting them. Do we need more programming for the international community?

VI. Research and Scholarship Committee Report

Arena gave a presentation addressing the three issues that the committee is exploring. The first of these is recognizing faculty who make major contributions to UIC's global engagement. He suggested the awards at UC Davis was a model to consider.

The second initiative is sharing current global engagement activities. The library is leading the effort to develop "Elements" which will be a portal for faculty to share their international

research and teaching. McCrillis noted Elements is dynamic and will be updated by faculty members. The software will be unveiled by the end of spring semester.

Arena noted that another issue being addressed is joint and dual degrees, and *cotutelles*. McCrillis noted that the Provost supports exploring UIC's policy, and he will be meeting with the Dean of the Graduate College. The problem, McCrillis noted, is that the current policy is designed for internal UIC collaborations and inhibits international collaborations.

Arena noted that he and McCrillis met with Nancy Freitag, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs to discuss ways to encourage greater global engagement with appropriate promotion and tenure guidelines. He noted that Freitag is very supportive of this initiative. Arena suggested that international activities would not be required for P&T but their value could be made clearer in order to provide a pathway for globally engaged faculty.

Arena noted that he is currently working on a partnership with Monterrey Tec and that UIC has a *cotutelle* with a university in Australia, the only nation that recognizes kinesiology doctorate. He suggested a more flexible approach would create more opportunities.

Deanna asked if the university is liable if a student has a bad international experience. McCrillis noted that this issue is addressed in the agreements. Stoll noted that a *cotutelle* is already in place with Australia. McCrillis agreed, but the current dual/joint degree policy is restrictive.

VII. Study Abroad Committee Report

McClure made a presentation on the work of the committee. Their priority will be responding to the U of I mandates on international travel approved in April 2019. These include ITS and insurance enrollment, orientations, program review and training of study abroad faculty.

Jim Martinie has provided international reimbursement transactions by country for FY 2019 in hopes that this will suggest possible opportunities where there are numerous faculty traveling but few or no study abroad programs. Arena asked if his committee's work might be useful to develop a study abroad mentoring award.

McCrillis noted that in terms of the campus vetting of programs, the focus will be on safety and security. Academic units should evaluate the academic merits of a study abroad program.

Deegan noted that it will be helpful to have a campus policy and procedure as it is not appropriate for the Study Abroad Office on its own to reject or approve study abroad programs.

VIII. Plans for the Next Meeting

McCrillis indicated the next meeting will take place during early to mid-February.

IX. Question, Concerns or Other Business

There was no other business.

X. Adjournment

The IAC adjourned at 12:32.

Respectfully submitted,
David Kodeski and Neal McCrillis