

**International Affairs Committee
February 17, 2023**

Members Present

Pedro Arce
Becky Asher
Dennis Duncan
David Gallop
Tina Girdley
Regina Gragg
Cameron Legge
Bobbie Maynard
Amy Miller
Abodul Moussa Modi
Matthew Nisbet
Mary Pashley
Mark Stephens
Braxton Westbrook
Rachel Wingo

Members Absent

Steven Anton
Harry Ingle

Guests

Charles Wilkerson
Jeri Winningham

Dr. Miller called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda had been provided to the committee members earlier via Teams committee folder and by e-mail. Dr. Duncan made the motion to approve and Mr. Westbrook second the motion. Motion passed.

Approval of October 17 Minutes

The October 17 minutes had been provided to the committee members earlier via Teams committee folder and by e-mail. Dr. Arce made the motion to approve and Dr. Duncan second the motion. Motion passed.

Updates from International Education Office

Dr. Miller recognized Mr. Wilkerson to share information from the International Education Office. Mr. Wilkerson updated the members on the Center for English Language (CESL) program. The program is maintaining an enrollment of 10 students. He is working on partnering with another organization to increase enrollment. One of the current issues that the office staff are dealing with is student meal availability due to the lack of cafeteria staff understanding that students are enrolled but the credit hours are zero. Enrollment for summer is projected to be approximately 20 students.

Dr. Miller questioned whether the students were staying in residence halls or host families. Mr. Wilkerson responded that the University did not want to enter into contracts with host families. It is difficult to find host families.

Mr. Wilkerson shared that Mr. Bleignier's title has been revised to Director of International Student and Scholar Services. Mr. Wilkerson's title has been revised to Director of International Admissions and Recruitment. A new coordinator position has been created to work with both of the directors but the employee will serve as a backup in the event that Mr. Bleignier is out of the office.

Dr. Duncan ask for a comparison of the fall enrollment and questioned whether this was confirmed for new international students. Mr. Wilkerson shared that the students were not confirmed. Students cannot apply for visas until 120 days before the semester is scheduled to begin. It is double compared to last year.

Election of Chair

Dr. Miller recognized Mr. Nisbet. Mr. Nisbet made the motion to nominate Dr. Dennis Duncan to serve as committee chair for the 2023-2024 academic year. Dr. Stephens second the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Such Other Matters

Dr. Miller shared that she had reviewed international enrollment so that she could inform Dr. Ada Haynes how many countries were represented at the University for the Window on the World event. Currently, we have 62 countries.

The number of students who are wanting to study abroad has increased. There are approximately 100 students for this summer who plan to go abroad. Summer 2021 after Covid we had 35 to travel and around 20 in the fall.

Dr. Miller has applied for a grant through IIE called the Passport Project where funding is provided for approximately 25 students to obtain their passports who may not have the necessary funds to afford one. She will find out around the first of April if she will receive the grant or not. This is the first time that she has applied for the grant.

Dr. Duncan questioned Dr. Miller whether her team connected with parents during SOAR events. She does speak to students and parents about the opportunities to study abroad.

Dr. Miller plans to offer a workshop on Tuesday, February 21 at 11 am in the Provost Conference Room for new faculty who are interested in taking student groups abroad. She plans to have two veteran faculty members who have had this experience present to answer questions. Procedures on how to sign up will be provided to the attendees.

Mr. Wilkerson shared with the members that he is scheduled for several recruitment trips. In April he plans to travel to Japan, Korea, and Taiwan; in May to Saudi Arabia and in June to Vietnam and Thailand.

Mr. Westbrook made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Arce second the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.