

**International Affairs Committee  
February 22, 2022**

**Members Present**

Emmanuel Aboah Boateng  
Steven Anton  
Becky Asher  
Cheryl Corder  
Angie Denson  
David Gallop  
Tina Girdley  
Regina Gragg  
Mary-Grayson Hamrick  
Bobbie Maynard  
Amy Miller  
Mary Pashley  
Yixing Wang

**Members Absent**

Harry Ingle  
Callie Johnson  
Matthew Nisbet  
Mark Stephens  
Liqun Zhang

**Guests**

Charles Wilkerson  
Jerri Wunningham

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. Ms. Corder made the motion to approve and Ms. Girdley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Approval of October 5 Minutes**

The October 5 minutes had been provided to the committee members earlier via Teams committee folder and by e-mail. Ms. Gragg made the motion to approve and Ms. Corder second the motion. Motion passed.

### **Policy 246 Recruitment of International Students**

Dr. Miller turned the meeting over to Mr. Wilkerson to report to the committee on Policy 246 Recruitment of International Students. No changes were presented to the committee. Mr. Wilkerson shared the purpose of the policy for recruiting international students for the University and the ESL program. The policy review date will be updated in Policy Tech to February 2024.

### **ESL and Pathway Program Update**

Dr. Miller turned the meeting over to Mr. Wilkerson for an update on the ESL and Pathway Program. Mr. Wilkerson shared with the committee members that he is estimating five new students will start the program in May. Currently, we have two students in the program. Mr. Wilkerson is working with Ms. Maynard on a press release that may be sent out.

### **Election of Chair**

Dr. Miller had agreed to serve another year as chair. No other nominees were presented. Ms. Girdley made the motion for Dr. Miller to serve as chair for the next upcoming year. Ms. Corder second the motion. A vote was taken and Dr. Miller was elected unanimously.

### **Such Other Matters**

Dr. Miller asked if there were any announcements to share. Mr. Wilkerson shared that Aisha Bukkari an international student from Saudi Arabia is serving on the Student Government Association.

Dr. Miller provided information on a grant that the University received from the Tennessee Board of Regents on Open Educational Resources (OER) which she worked on with Dr. Mike Gotcher and Sharon Holderman. This is free textbooks for students and the grant ties in with diversity and access. They were able to award eight faculty to participate in order for them to convert their material over to open materials. This is a no cost to students. Dr. Miller created a flyer that may be distributed. There were 981 students that were affected and the cost savings for them were \$148,855. It is a renewable grant and they are applying again for next year. If the faculty want to participate in the grant, they may sign up on the University Library's website and check out textbook affordability. Information about the grant is available on the OER section. Applications will open sometime in May or June. E-mail messages will be sent out to the faculty.

Mr. Wilkerson questioned Dr. Miller about the Study Abroad Program. Dr. Miller responded that after students not being able to travel for the last two years that the program plans to reopen in May. There are two faculty-led groups planned for May. Discussion is being held about any stipulations that may need to be in place. Deadlines are coming up mid-March.

Windows of the World will take place this year in person on Saturday, April 9. The host family organization (international friends) will be hosting a banquet for the students and the host families. Dr. Miller shared what the host family program. It is not a live-in program but a social host family program. The families who sign up are matched with students. The families invite the students over once per month—holidays, one-day trips, etc. The banquet is partial funded by Center Stage and is scheduled to

take place on Saturday, March 26 this year in the Roaden University Center. Chartwells will be catering and a DJ will be on site. Students are placed in the fall and the International Friends' site is on the Study Abroad website. Welcome events take place at the beginning of each semester. Ice cream social in the fall and hot chocolate/apple cider in the spring.

Ms. Girdley made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Corder second the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:24 AM.