University of Cincinnati  
All-University Committee on International Affairs (IC)  
Monday, January 10, 2011  
8:00am – 9:30am  
6154 Edwards One

MINUTES

**Present:**

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<tr>
<th>UC International</th>
<th>Ron Cushing (Co-Chair)</th>
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<td>Kurt Olausen (Co-Chair)</td>
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<td>Ryan Meyer</td>
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<td>International Admissions</td>
<td>Jon Weller</td>
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<td>Charlie Schwartz</td>
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<td>Nazanin Tork</td>
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<td>CAHS</td>
<td>Asad Dalia</td>
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<td>Arts &amp; Sciences</td>
<td>Dennis O’Neill</td>
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<td>COB</td>
<td>Larry Gales</td>
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<td>Jason Dickman</td>
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<td>CCM</td>
<td>Sara Danner Dukić</td>
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<td>CEAS</td>
<td>Julie Muenchen</td>
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<td>College of Law</td>
<td>Nancy Ent</td>
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<td>College of Medicine</td>
<td>Stuart Baxter</td>
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<td>Graduate School</td>
<td>Bob Zierolf</td>
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<td>Professional Practice</td>
<td>Gayle Elliott</td>
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<td>International Students</td>
<td>Nadine Stecher</td>
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<td>Student Government</td>
<td>Kenny Day</td>
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<td>Will McIlwain</td>
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**Guests:**

| Housing & Food Services   | Todd Duncan                    |
|                          | Planning+Design+Construction   |
|                          | Marc Petullo                   |

**Absent:**

I. **Call to Order – Welcome**

   Kurt Olausen

II. **Introductions**

   All

All present at the meeting introduced themselves.
During her tenure at UC, former President Zimpher asked Vice President Mitchel Livingston to convene a Task Force whose purpose was to identify the needs and issues related to housing graduate students and students with families, and to make recommendations for addressing the needs of this market. Rather than reconvening another committee at this time, the report delivered in 2008 can be turned to for implementation and recommendations for the future.

A copy of the Task Force report was delivered to the IC; and two members of the Task Force, Marc Petullo and Todd Duncan, presented an overview of the report’s contents, provided an update on the status of the recommendations, and provided input for proceeding into the future. Highlights from their overview are provided:

**About the Task Force:** Task Force members included the Provost, the Graduate School, Planning+ Design+ Construction, GSGA, UC International, and grad students. The term “Graduate student” was broadly defined to include PhD, post doc, and advanced level students. Research of competing institutions – 4-year public, private, land-grant and urban - identified what number of beds might be reasonable to provide for this population at our campus. Focus groups identified housing preferences among international, domestic, and students with families. A survey of the graduate student population identified price sensitivity, and preferred housing locations. During the course of study the committee also examined the issue of visiting scholars and accommodating short-term scholars. University Staff worked with real estate offices in the area to provide updated information to the graduate student community regarding opportunities to rent off campus. The information is currently managed by Deb Cohen of H&FS.

**General Observations:** Because we are an urban campus, the Graduate School surveyed competing institutions, asking what housing they have available for these students. The question to be answered was: how many beds would be appropriate to reserve for this population? What was learned was that 400 beds was an appropriate figure. Other questions explored included: what students can afford, where there might be opportunities to put that housing, what options already exist, what is immediately available. It was also important to consider that Campus Services already has debt which it cannot afford to expand.

Focus groups were asked to explore the types of products of interest. Do graduate students prefer apartment style living? It was concluded that there are several apartment buildings within the vicinity of the medical center that where we can begin to provide space because UC has some control over those properties.

Quality of life was also discussed. It was concluded that a database is needed for tracking sources of information related to finding apartments. A central location for this sort of information now exists. Students can find information about housing and public transportation. Quality of life also included discussions about improving services, especially airport pick-up, and short-term housing.
**Task Force Recommendations & Status:** At then-President Zimpher’s request, the recommendations kept in mind what the institution could afford; and included acquiring several floors of adjacent apartment buildings within the vicinity of campus were included, but require funding to implement. Recommendations also included improvements to information about housing options, assisting with student inquiries, and providing shuttle service from the airport - these have been implemented. The report was submitted to President Zimpher; and the panel was asked to explore different strategies for implementing the short-term recommendations.

The report was submitted to President Zimpher, and the panel was asked to explore different strategies for implementing the short-term recommendations. Prior to submitting the report, the President asked that when making recommendations the committee keep in mind what the institution can actually afford.

In March 2008 the University developed a listing of major landlords in the uptown area. The information is maintained on the H&FS website. There are a number of landlords interested in rental relationships. When admitted a graduate student receives an email regarding off campus housing options. Bed rental in campus housing is an option but does not fit the needs of most graduate students.

**Questions / Comments:** Ron asked about using this same email structure for visiting scholars. The email links to the Graduate School website for uptown listings, private listings, a few short-term/long-term facilities that have been developed for these situations. The landlords listed do not offer an entire, year-long, lease, but these options are not hotels either. One property has opened since the taskforce last convened. Some landlords will consider housing short-term visitors if they are out of cycle or not during the academic year. The real estate cycle around UC is tied to our academic calendar. Short term includes winter quarter arrivals, which includes a premium, the question of how we accommodate visiting scholars, and short-term housing is largely market-driven.

Also asked, was a question about the feasibility for Deb to compile information about some of the short-term stay facilities, through spending time reaching out to landlords in the area that do have openings and maintain an active list of landlords that are willing to consider this type of rental. The answer is yes. However, it is up to the consumer (Graduate student) to persuade the landlord that he/she is off cycle, business is slow, and considering short-term housing would be wise.

Larry Gales raised an issue regarding two summer programs for graduate students that COB administers: one is full summer quarter, the other is during the month of August. Gales has contacted University Park Apartments, and it seems there are enough beds for the 20 students they are expecting. Larry mentions that “it would be nice to have some degree of predictability so that we can price the program properly.” Stratford Heights offers 12 month and academic year leases and Housing has taken over the operations there. In order for housing to be available, Summer programs should fit within the university calendar, as 4,000 beds must be ready for fall quarter.

Johanna Looye mentioned that one of the primary considerations for attracting graduate students, particularly in the School of Planning, is the availability of graduate student and family housing. For an international student coming to the USA searching for housing in the private sector is difficult. Those
students who come with spouses and families need to be able to house their families so that they can concentrate on being students. Lack of graduate and family housing is making a difference in the school’s ability to attract students. Looye asked about surveying grad students on whether or not they got the housing they wanted. A tool is being developed for this purpose. For many, their first and only choice is to be housed on campus in family housing. It will be useful to know how many families there are in the international graduate student population.

A / Issues to Bear in Mind: Page 8 of the report talks about Morgens-Scioto which had 310 units supported, averaging about 400 students per year, which was approximately 16 percent of the international student population. However, 84 percent of international graduate students never lived in Morgens-Scioto.

Constructing new student housing, or negotiating a master lease for existing housing in the private market, requires funding; and if rents are to be kept affordable, a subsidy is necessary.

Next Steps: Planning+Design+Construction can identify where strategic solutions might be as the academic plan for the institution moves forward. This includes opportunities that may arise off-campus. The first step - if the IC believes that the need for housing for the graduate students and students with families is a priority - is for the Provost to work with Planning+Design+Construction to make the need a Master Plan priority; and to identify a vehicle for funding any solutions will also be necessary, including subsidizing the difference between the capital and maintenance outlay and what the students can actually afford to pay.

Conclusion: So, we are looking to the provost’s office for financial assistance. We hope the issue is going to be placed on the provost’s priority list and then ideas can be developed in more detail, working closely with UC International.

IV. International Admissions Update

Jon Weller reported on the current numbers of undergraduate international students: numbers of applications are up, but as yet there are no confirmations. China has slight growth, and also represents almost half of the applicant pool. A lot of colleges also now have articulation agreements, which contributes to that growth. India has received more emphasis this year, with a media tour in Mumbai, Bangalore, and Delhi which was helpful, and gave UC a lot of exposure. Twenty students from India will receive global scholarship awards to help boost our enrollment from that country.

Nazanin Tork, who was recently hired as an Admissions Officer for Graduate International Students was introduced. She comes to the position after having worked for ELS and brings a good understanding of graduate programs, student issues, and programs that want to get involved in active recruiting.
Other topics related to international admissions include: conditional admissions letters, and the fact that some programs on campus will not issue them due to concerns with how the process is working; the development of short-term programs for incoming international students (there were 2 students interested this year). The short-term programs will be marketed more for the future.

V. Reports

Ron Cushing – International Services

Ron distributed copies of the press release announcing the launching of the UCosmic Consortium. Ucosmic has become an open source product, allowing web developers to expand change the existing code. Current members of the consortium include the College Board, Lehigh University (Pennsylvania), Griffith University (Australia), and a corporation in India. As a world-wide consortium, UCosmic will lead the processes of data collection and systems in national and international strategy. Dan Ludwig, who has been the principal developer of UCosmic since its creastion, remains a University of Cincinnati employee, and will manage all other web developers. Membership fees will be used for operating the consortium as it grows, paying developers, travel for consortium visitors. As the lead institutions of the consortium, SUNY will receive 75%, and 25% will come to UC.

Schools nation-wide are scrambling to comply with federal regulations on export controls. Is the technology or data under export control regulations? If so, no foreign nation may have access. If you submit an H1B for employment you must verify the latter. We have an export control website that helps you assess the technology based on Federal regulations. Sponsoring departments must complete the form, saying an export license is not required. You can easily determine whether the technology has export control.

Kurt Olausen – International Programs

International Programs is still working to determine what direction upper administration wants to go with regards to the expansion of study abroad. Through the Academic Master Planning process, international education will be visible, and the entire UC community will have an opportunity to comment on the plan.

With regards to the $500K that was announced by the President in September, vague breakdowns as to how the money should be used have been given—student scholarships, faculty grants, faculty development, staffing—but direction on how to proceed has not yet been fully clarified. UC International will ensure that appropriate units are included in the planning process.

Jon Weller – International Recruiting & Marketing

We continue to hear concerns about the English ability of our undergraduate ELS students. International Admissions is pursuing a lot of ESL support services for students at the undergrad level. In the Fall,
struggling students were identified as early as possible, and placed in English advising. Advisors know where the students should begin, as far as English ability. Course options have been expanded, in particular the COB bridge program. Many students who meet the university’s TOEFL requirements, do not meet them for COB. The COB Bridge program offers half English support and half college preparation work. If the students do well, they can transition into COB.

Struggling students have often tested out of the ELS program. They start with ELS, take courses, take the TOEFL and obtain the minimum score for admission to UC.

The UC2019 Goal for international student enrollment is 8% of the total student population. Developing marketing and outreach efforts, diversification, academic support services side, hoping will be a result of the committee. Admissions is becoming a defacto advising office, which is something they are not prepared for.

Johanna Looye mentioned that the writing lab in A&S has been closed, which creates a problem for Professors who assign papers regularly. Students have no place to get help with their writing skills.

Weller mentioned that this year’s Diversity Conference will feature a number of sessions on international student issues.

Once students are enrolled at UC they are generally happy, based on the International Student Barometer results. Undergraduate programs articulation and retention rates show international students do fine. Those that struggle get all of the attention. Some students need more attention than others.

Ron Cushing – Regional Campus Subcommittee

Ron Cushing is serving as interim head of this subcommittee until new representatives from RWC and Clermont are appointed. There are now over 60 international students at RWC, taking classes out in Blue Ash. A UC International Services staff member will begin spending half a day each week at RWC. Dean Cady Short-Thompson is working to get funding for a RWC-Main Campus shuttle. There is interest in increasing the number of international students there.

ELS Language Center – Ron Cushing

Director Pat Killian was not able to attend, but she will be at April meeting. The initial 3-year contract between UC and ELS has expired, and is in the process of being extended. Many issues come from the fact that ELS exist on campus, unintended consequences resulted from this relationship. The last intake for ELS was 262 students, in two years Cincinnati has become the largest ELS center in the country, and has outgrown their space on the 5th floor of Edwards One. UC and ELS are co-investing in the renovation of Sander Hall, which will provide the amount of space the center needs. In Sept. 2012 all operations will be in Sander and 5th Floor of Edwards, Shriners Hospital, and the old Faculty Club. There is currently
exploration of some space at Hebrew Union College that could enable ELS to consolidate those classes currently meeting in Shriners and the Faculty Club. ELS Center generates $3 million in tuition revenue.

VI. New Business –

Will McIlwain reported that UC Student Government is trying to develop a survey for international students. UC International will be scheduling a meeting with UCSG, to discuss issues such as: getting more American student participation in our programs, one on one partnerships, using student government to welcome incoming international students. The survey seeks to ask questions such as: Would you be interested in living with an international student? Do you smoke? American students are willing we just need the mechanism to do so. There is a spirit of cooperation for all things international which we did not have 5 years ago.

VII. Adjourn

K. Olausen