University of Cincinnati  
All-University Committee on International Affairs (IC)  

Minutes  
Monday, May 24, 2010  
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM  
6154 One Edwards (Annie Laws)

Present:  
- UC International Programs: Kurt Olausen, Karen Ramos, Brittney Smith  
- UC International Services: Ron Cushing, Collin Noronha  
- International Admissions: Charles Schwartz, Jon Weller  
- College of Business: Ana Leonard  
- Clermont College: Vicki Hammer  
- College of Applied Science: Marilyn Bossman, Johanna Looye  
- DAAP: Dennis O’Neill, Sara Danner Dukiç  
- ELS Language Centers: Teri Laliberte  
- Pharmacy: Jeff Guo  
- Housing and Food: Carl Dieso, Deb Cohan  
- International Students: Nadine Stecher  
- Graduate Students: Jim Bowen  
- Law: Nancy Ent  
- Medicine: Stuart Baxter  
- Raymond Walters: Sue Sipple

Absent:  
No representatives from the following units were in attendance:  
- Education  
- Allied Health Sciences  
- School of Social Work  
- Nursing  
- Career Development  
- Alumni  
- UC Foundation  
- Faculty Senate  
- School of World Languages & Cultures  
- Professional Practice  
- OBM (Finance)

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am.

II. Introductions

All present introduced themselves to the group.

III. Office of Admissions: Open Positions

Jon Weller reported on three new positions that are being filled in International Admissions:

- Processing position – handles the data entry, filing and records management for
international applicants

- Senior Admissions Officer – recruitment of graduate students
- Senior Admissions Officer – recruitment of students for partnership programs (such as the 2+2 agreements)

Hiring decisions will be made in the near future.

IV. Undergraduate International Admissions Report

Weller shared the latest recruitment numbers (based on May 1, 2010). There has been a 33% increase overall in international freshman applications (from 373 to 498 May 1, 2009 to May 1, 2010 comparison)—120+ more applications since last year. Likewise, offers have increased from 171 to 181 and confirmations are up from 39 to 55. Total offers have increased across the board. There are 75 Conditional admissions in ELS.

International transfers are still a relatively low number; although that is expected to change as more articulation agreements are developed and finalized. One current agreement, between Sun Yat Sen University in China and the Department of Geography, is increasing the number of incoming students by 10 for the 2010-11 academic year.

The recruitment focus has been on China, India, Saudia Arabia and Sri Lanka. China represents the largest area of growth (from 102 to 220). A number of Chinese students are currently in ELS and will transfer as matriculated UC Students. India is a newer market and there is a new agent overseeing efforts there; enrollment from India is unchanged. Sri Lanka has a lot of potential for successful US student recruitment but the country has traditionally focused on the United Kingdom which has become more expensive in recent years. The perception in the country is that the US is significantly more expensive than the UK and it is not possible to study here. So far, International admissions have 13 freshman applications, there were no applications from Sri Lanka in 2009. There are 7 confirmations from Sri Lanka and 10 pending confirmations. Currently, there are 28 applications from Saudia Arabia. No offers have been made and no confirmations received. A substantial number of Saudi students have been enrolled in ELS.

At this time the UC ELS Center is no longer accepting Saudi students as they have become the majority population within the program. Teri Laliberte and Jon Weller are trying to avoid a huge influx of ELS students transferring in as matriculated students at the last minute. ELS, Admissions, and International Services will discuss a strategy for dealing with this situation.

V. Visiting International Student Program

Ron Cushing presented UC’s new Visiting Student (or Short-Term Study Abroad) Program. The background for this program is that there are international students who do not want to complete their degree at a US institution but would like a short term study abroad experience in the US. Until now, there has not been a formal intake process for allowing short term, non-degree, study for international students. Students whose home institution does not have an exchange agreement with UC can now participate in one of the following 4 tracks: American Identity & Politics, Marketing Management, International Business, and Environmental Studies.
There are 2 students enrolling via these programs for Fall 2010, and another 3 students have applications in process. The prime market for these programs is Europe because the academic system and culture—students are encouraged to spend part of their undergraduate years abroad—suit this model. Other colleges are encouraged to develop tracks for this program. There will be minimal commitment from the college involved, but the hope is that the program will grow across a variety of UC’s colleges.

One challenge has been asking instructors and colleges to hold a specific number of seats in courses for short term study students, (i.e. 3 seats in a Freshman English composition course). One benefit of the program is the affordability. International Admissions is prorating the Global Scholarship currently awarded to degree-seeking students for short-term students. Everyone pays the same amount and everyone gets the scholarship. Most of the participants will also receive some funding from their home government.

Another issue with short term programs, is that UC cannot provide a formal certificate of completion for students. Because these programs do not meet the requirements of a formal certificate program, an official document cannot be granted. As International Services and International Admissions increase their staff they hope to designate these tasks more strategically.

Other challenges with short term study include enrolling students in courses that have prerequisites. Not all upper level courses have prerequisites and those courses need to be identified. Other programs/courses that have a more open ended design will be explored as they may be better able to accommodate this short-term model.

**VI. “I” Course Attribute**

Kurt Olausen discussed the course attributes that have been introduced as part of the semester conversion system. The international attribute—the letter “I” added to the end of a course number—will be used to improve the acknowledgment of students’ education abroad experiences, as well as for improving the process for tracking courses that include an education abroad component (taught partially or wholly outside of the U.S.). Knowing which courses have this included experience will allow UC International Programs to work more closely with departments and faculty members offering those courses. Other course attributes include Research (“R”), Honors (“H”), and Service-Learning (“S”). Faculty are encouraged to include such attributes if a course has the potential to include any of these experiences in the future (individual attributes will be assigned at the section level when a course is scheduled for a particular term).

**VII. Sub-Committee Reports**

The International Services Subcommittee has improved and centralized the process for international undergraduate and graduate student orientation. Sara Leggesse and other Orientation leaders are fully involved. There is centralized communication across departments; the large-scale international student orientation held in past years has been eliminated. Students now have a series of 8 check-in days to choose from. All students receive printed information detailing the process/instructions for check-in day, including a complete schedule from start to
finish of where and when they need to be on each check-in day. There is a dedicated arrival date of the 13th for undergraduates and 14th for graduates.

As of fall 2010 ALL arriving international students receive free transportation from CVG to campus. UC International Services is committing funds for this service. To take advantage of the service a student need only inform International Services of his or her arrival date.

Student Ambassador Program – Jon Weller and Ron Cushing organized this program in order to maintain a group of student volunteers who would be willing to transport those students who do not arrive during the regular operating hours of the shuttle service to campus or peak arrival times. They would help students with their luggage and accompany them to a host of international student events and activities organized by International Admissions and International Services. Students who participate fully in these events will be able to earn 15 community service hours toward any scholarships they may be getting here at UC.

The International Programs Subcommittee has not met.

The International Recruitment & Marketing Subcommittee has not met.

The Regional Campus Subcommittee has not met. Vicki Hammer informed the committee about the death of Elisabet Rodriguez, a very active professor at UC Clermont and advocate of study abroad. In her honor, a fund has been established at Clermont, in her name, for study abroad scholarships.

ELS currently has 150 students. There is a large group that will enter the program in August. Most of these students are coming from China and have conditional letters of acceptance (CLA) from UC. Saudis are currently not being accepted into the center because they are now the largest population and ELS as a company tries to maintain a balance of nationalities within each center. ELS is also trying to be proactive, as they realize that if there is too much Saudi representation in the program the Saudi Cultural Mission will impose a university ban and forbid Saudi students from applying to UC indefinitely. The ban will be lifted in October when ELS demonstrates a more diverse student population in the program. Otherwise, there is still healthy enrollment from South Korea, China, along with a small number of students from Africa.

The Iraqi Scholarship – This program is supporting fully-funded scholars at the graduate and undergraduate levels for study in the US. Chancellor Fingerhut wants a certain number of Iraqi students enrolled in Ohio institutions of higher learning. The scholars will be charged in-state tuition. There are 6 applicants in process, most of whom are in the medical sciences field. UC hopes to see a more academically diverse applicant pool in 6 months. All scholars are required to part take in an intensive language module before taking courses.

As of June 5th the University of Cincinnati ELS center will be an official IELTS testing center. All administrators will undergo rigorous training to become IELTS examiners. There are currently 45 applications. Pearson test scores are now recognized by the University of Cincinnati along with IELTS and TOEFL.

Teri Laliberte is leaving the University of Cincinnati and will move to Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, as the Director of their ELS Center. Patricia Killion will replace Teri.
Under Teri’s leadership the UC ELS Center is now one of the top 3 ELS centers in the country and is the official flagship center in the US.

VIII. New Business

Deb Cohen informed the committee about the On Off-Campus Housing information now offered through the office for Graduate and Family Housing. The office is committed to helping international graduate students find off campus housing with reputable landlords. The process is internet-driven; students can also be assisted by phone or email. They will help to manage the negotiations between international students seeking off-campus housing and property owner/managers. Visiting scholars are eligible for this service as well as ELS students.

UC Housing is not endorsing any particular property owners. Previous leadership of the office provided a master list of local property owners and real estate offices from which UC housing recommends to students.

Marilyn Bossman expressed concern about the elimination of CAT and the recent merger between CAS, CAT and A & S. She is concerned about the negative affects the new transition could have on international students who struggle with English composition or writing. She asked committee members who work with these students to encourage students that are struggling with composition to contact their professors for extra help. With the elimination of 101 B English Comp and the computer component which tests composition, individual needs of each student cannot be addressed. The Provost, CECH, and A & S are addressing the issue of undergraduate students who meet the required TOEFL score for admission but are below average when they take the composition test. In order to keep the admissions process competitive this must be addressed.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 AM.