

**University of Central Florida
International Affairs Committee (IAC)**

Minutes – March 26, 2002
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Research Pavilion, Room 120

Attendees: Dr. Karen Biraimah, Dr. Jose Fernandez, Dr. Mathilda Harris,
Dr. Debra Reinhart, Dr. Saleha Suleman and Dr. Bill Young (representing
Dr. Carol Emrich)

Absent: Ms. Joyce Dörner, Dr. Taylor Ellis, Dr. Jean Kijek, Dr. Steve Sorg and Dr.
Denise Young

Guest: Mr. John Bersia, Special Assistant to the President for Global Perspectives

- I. Approval of Minutes, IAC Committee
Dr. Fernandez moved for approval of the minutes for the February 26 meeting, and Dr. Suleman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- II. Global Perspectives, John Bersia
 1. The Office for Global Perspectives conducted *The Clash of Cultures* presentation on March 21, 2002 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the UCF Pegasus Ballroom. Fareed Zakaria, editor and writer for Newsweek, was the keynote speaker. In addition, a panel of experts discussed the internationalization of the American news media after September 11. Mr. Bersia was disappointed with the low attendance. He suggested that other UCF departments collaborate in the advertising for future events.
 2. Mr. Bersia initiated the Global Perspectives Distinguished Visitors Series. To inaugurate the program, he brought Joseph Mussomeli, Senior Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Department of State; and Jack Mendelsohn, Vice President, Lawyers Alliance for World Security (LAWS). The purpose of the series is to bring speakers to UCF and the Orlando community to address international issues. The next speaker in the series will be Tim Cullen, Managing Director, and TCA International Policy Management. Mr. Cullen will visit UCF from May 14 – 16, 2002.
 3. The Office for Global Perspectives has formed an external international advising committee to provide advise for international initiatives at UCF. The committee consists of persons from around the country who have been involved in international programs. IAC was concerned that this new committee does not include a member of the Orlando community or UCF.

- III. College, Units and Linkage Institute updates, IAC Committee
- A. International Student and Scholar Services, Dr. Saleha Suleman
1. The number of international students coming to UCF for the summer term has decreased. Dr. Suleman is looking at the possibility of not taking international students applications for admission for the summer semester. Denials in visa and financial aid are some of the reasons for the low number of students.
 2. The Office of International Student and Scholar Services expects a shortage of students for the fall due to more federal regulations. Dr. Suleman will likely change the deadline for the fall admission to an earlier date in order to complete all required paperwork. The new deadline will allow the office to notify students of their status at an earlier time. This will eliminate the chances of students attending another university because they heard from that institution before UCF.
 3. Multiple orientation sessions will be created for incoming students. Dr. Suleman specified that students most attend these sessions especially after the events of September 11.
 4. International student services will hire an intern to research bills relating to international student concerns after September 11 that have been passed or will be passed by the state and federal governments.
- B. Arts and Sciences, Dr. Jose Fernandez
1. Dr. María de Jesús Gonzalez, Art Department, is conducting a study abroad program to Mexico for this summer.
- C. College of Education, Dr. Karen Biraimah
1. The College is working on creating an international internship with Germany and an international education school in Taiwan for early childhood education.
 2. A grant is being rewritten in collaboration with Southeast Missouri State University and their international partners in Belfast, Spain and Holland. The grant is for an Urban Teacher Training program, and it would be conducted as a faculty exchange.
 3. The College of Education will meet with the staff from Study Abroad on April 1st to look at new opportunities for study abroad programs.
- D. College of Engineering and Computer Science, Dr. Debra Reinhart
1. Dean Martin Wanielista returned from a trip from La Universidad del Bío-Bío in Chile, and he is optimistic about forming new agreements.
 2. A faculty member from Engineering Technology is working with a school in the Caribbean, and he would like to bring 25 of their students to UCF to complete their bachelor's degree. The College of Engineering is looking for people who will like to sponsor and fund these students.
 3. Dr. Issa Batarseh is conducting a grant through NSF in Jordan.

4. The College of Engineering and Computer Science will not be able to sponsor international research assistants.
- E. Florida Solar Energy Center, Dr. Bill Young
1. FSEC is working on a grant in South Africa to bring solar medical equipment.
 2. Haiti and the Dominican Republic would also like to work with FSEC to develop solar energy programs, and they are searching for funding opportunities for the project. Dr. Young has also worked in Trinidad, Jamaica and Puerto Rico in creating solar energy programs.
 3. Students from Ireland came to visit and work with FSEC. The students were paired up in teams of two, a Catholic and Protestant.
 4. On June 7th, FSEC is conducting a workshop on disaster relief efforts.
- IV. Fulbright-Hay's Group Projects Abroad Grant.
 OIS received a grant under the U.S. Department of Education's Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program. Through the grant, 16 faculty members from UCF and the K-12 school system will travel for 36 days in the Caribbean to enhance international education in the university curricula and K-12 system.
- V. Fulbright Program
 The list of Fulbright scholars for 2003-2004 is in and can be found in OIS or in the Fulbright website. Departments throughout UCF are encouraged to invite these scholars to campus.
- VI. Faculty International Studies Summer Institute
- A. The International Institute will be held from April 29 – May 3, 2002.
 - B. The Institute will assist UCF faculty to internationalize their courses or research. This is the first year that the Institute will include an international component for research. The Office of Research is collaborating with OIS on the research area.
 - C. Dr. Benjamin Barber and Dr. Stella Ting-Toomey are the main speakers for the Institute. Dr. Ting-Toomey will address the faculty on the first day, and will involve faculty in simulation exercises on multiculturalism. Dr. Barber will give the keynote address on Wednesday, May 1st. His address is *Terrorism and Multiculturalism: The Impact on Higher Education*.
- VII. MOIAC International Summit
 The MOIAC International Summit will take place on Wednesday, May 15 in the Disney Coronado Resort. The keynote speaker will be Steve Forbes. UCF and Rollins College will be moderating the morning sessions

VIII. Other

- A. Representatives from the University of Salamanca, Spain will meet with Dean Tom Keon, College of Business Administration, on April 4th.
- B. Study Abroad is recruiting students for the Jordan exchange program.

IX. Adjournment

The IAC meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 23rd from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. in room 120 of the Research Pavilion.