

Minutes
USG System Council for International Education
24 January 2014

I. Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. The following representatives were present:

Akinyemi, Nuru	KSU	McClellan, Irina	VSU
Anderson, James	AASU	McCrillis, Neal	CSU
Bearden, Camille	UNG	Miller, Maggie	GaTech
Biek, David	MGSC	Nguyen, Ken	Clayton
Blough, Suzy	GGC	Nikolov, Ivan	VSU
Braun, Lauren	VSU	Palumbo, Carmine	East Georgia
Bright-Ragland, Margee	GPC	Phipps, Amanda	UNG
Darley, Maria	GRU	Pinder, Anthony	GGC
Davis, Houston	BOR	Schwarzer, Chris	UGA
Davis, Libby	GCSU	Smith, Danielle	GSoU
Demmitt, Kevin	Clayton	Strawn-Valcy, Iyonka	KSU
Etheredge, Kristin	UWG	Starling, David	VSU
Gibson, Irma	ASU	Szmedra, Philip	GSW
Guffey, Karen	Gordon	Wilson, John	UNG
Jones, Joyce	BOR	Wynn, Jason	GCSU
Kirchdorfer, Ulf	Darton	Osakwe, Nneka-Nora	ASU
Laster, Kasee	UGA		
Lubecki, Jacek	GSoU		

II. Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Representatives from institutions introduced themselves. Dr. Houston Davis and Dr. Joyce Jones from the USG Office also introduced themselves. Minutes from the September meeting previously distributed were accepted unanimously.

III. Reports from SCIE Committees

- a. CISS: Lauren Braun listed as issues that would be discussed during the committee's afternoon meeting various English language proficiency tests, the need to update the BOR website, as well as in-state tuition for students categorized as in deferred-action status.
- b. Study Abroad: Kasee Laster indicated that this would be her last meeting as chair of the committee because she is taking on other responsibilities at her home institution. Items on the agenda for the afternoon meeting of the committee would be the election of a new chair, disability access, and faculty credentials for SACS. Kasee also mentioned a NAFSA 2014 workshop by her UGA colleague, Jane Gatewood, "Developing and Managing Partnerships for Changing Landscape of International Engagement."

IV. Updates from USG Councils

- a. Africa Council: Nuru Akinyemi reported that Columbus State hosted the successful Southeast Model African Union conference in November. Keynote speakers included luminaries such as the ambassador of Tanzania and the former ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo to the United States. Clayton State University will host the upcoming Southeast Model African Union conference in November 2014.
- b. Americas Council: No report.
- c. Asia Council: No report.
- d. European Council: Margee Bright-Ragland reported that “numbers were up” for student participation in European Council study abroad and provided a spreadsheet showing applications by program and home institution. While there is a waitlist for some destinations, Margee emphasized this does not mean all the programs will necessarily be full. For example, last year, even with a long waitlist, Ireland was ultimately one student short of its maximum.
- e. Middle East Council: No report.
(Handouts were provided for the “Middle East Student Symposium, April 5-6, 2014, Georgia Regents University, Augusta, Georgia,” a Call for Papers for the 31st Annual Conference of the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies at Georgia Regents University on April 4-5, 2014.)

V. BOR Director of International Education

Dr. Houston Davis, USG Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer, spoke enthusiastically about the search to fill the new position of Director of International Education in the BOR office. He indicated that the BOR is in its final stages and he hopes that a candidate will have accepted by mid-February. Dr. Davis also thanked the SCIE for providing a planning document that the System Office was able to use to develop a job description for the Director. Dr. Davis also thanked Neal McCrillis and Robin Catmur for their active participation in the search. Dr. Joyce Jones, USG Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, also expressed her enthusiasm for the process and the strength of the candidate pool.

When asked why the position was a “Director” rather than an “Assistant Vice Chancellor” as originally recommended, Dr. Davis assured the council that the title did not mean the System Office did not take the position and the responsibilities lightly. He stressed that senior officials, including the Chancellor, had been actively involved in developing the position and reviewing candidates. Dr. Davis stated that the person who accepts the position will need to be a “hands on” administrator and will also need to visit campuses and work with SCIE staff and faculty members. SCIE Members expressed their wish to work closely with the new director and share their knowledge of international education to bring the new person “up to speed.”

They also expressed the high priority need for USG data collection and analysis, as it pertains to education abroad, visas, consortia, and student-faculty development opportunities.

VI. Non-Institutional Faculty Credentials, SACS, and Education Abroad

A lively discussion ensued after representatives of one institution told of their challenge in dealing with new SACS-related work. The representatives stated that their provost's office informed them that SACS required the institution maintain credentials for all faculty members from all partner institutions overseas or in the USG who taught their students. Great concern was expressed by SCIE representatives about the potential impact on international education. Transcripts do not exist in some countries. In other cases the U.S. international office will have no realistic means to obtain such records for all faculty members at all partner universities.

Dr. Davis said there was no such SACS requirement although SACS teams can sometimes make unusual requests. He offered to contact the provost at the institution in question.

VII. SCIE Housekeeping

The chair pointed out that revision of the by-laws had been discussed and approved in principle at an earlier meeting. However, the visit of the Chancellor and the Director search had sidelined the formal vote. The proposed change was the rewording of Article III to note that the Executive Committee only includes two (not three) committee chairs because the Faculty and Curriculum Committee was disbanded in September 2011. The proposed change in the by-laws was approved unanimously.

V. Best Practices, Campus Innovations or Concerns

There were a few questions raised about practices on other campuses related to international education.

VIII. Next SCIE Meeting

September 5, 2014 was suggested as the next SCIE meeting. There were no concerns or objections to the date. However, there may be an ad hoc spring meeting to meet the new BOR Director of International Education and brainstorm with him/her.

IX. Other Issues or Announcements

Maggie Miller of Georgia Tech announced that on February 19-21 the Georgia Association of International Educators (GAIE) will hold their winter conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Albany State University announced a program in Ghana.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.