

**University System of Georgia**  
**System Council on International Education**  
**23 September 2011**  
**Minutes**

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Neal McCrillis, Vice-Chair of the SCIE.

The meeting began with a round of introductions and a request for comments from any new members.

SCIE Committee and Regional Council Reports

**Committee on International Students and Scholars** (Libby Davis)

- Update on the progress of the RFP for a new international student health insurance plan (including graduate assistantship students). The RFP should be available 1 October with a contract awarded by 1 January. The new plan should include wellness and preventive care, elimination of pre-existing exclusions, mental health coverage and better customer service. The RFP should include separate or tiered pricing based on the age of the insured student.
- The CISS is seeking more information about USG admission requirements for international students. There are serious concerns about the timing of the COMPASS test for international students as it is not administered overseas. In addition students seeking to enter ESOL programs might be classified as on learning support, preventing them from being admitted.
- The committee has created a generic handbook for international students, and it should be online at the BOR website very soon.

**Study Abroad Committee** (No representative was available to report from this committee)

**Faculty Internationalization Committee** (Chaudron Gille)

- Attendance at meetings has been low, and given that the committee's primary responsibilities have been removed with the ending of the Chancellor's awards and Faculty Development Seminars, it may be the time to consider disbanding this committee.

**Africa Council** (Nuru Akinyemi)

- The council hosted the Southeast Model African Union, and last year's participants represented 22 African countries. This year's model union will be held at Savannah State 10-12 November. The chair invited all USG institutions to send delegations to the upcoming Model African Union.

- The Faculty Development seminar to Egypt (jointly organized with the Mideast Council) was canceled but may be rescheduled for next summer.
- The Council's study abroad program to Nigeria was cancelled by the host campus (GCSU) because of State Department travel warnings. The chair of the council expressed concern that this decision was made without consulting the council. Options for future hosts of this study abroad program will be discussed in the afternoon meeting.

#### **Americas Council** (Jim Anderson in the absence of the chair)

- The Council's research symposium will be held 10-11 February at Georgia Perimeter. There will be both faculty and student panels at this event.
- There are two Council-endorsed programs: a new program to Guatemala and a continuing program to Chile.

#### **Asia Council** (Salli Vargas)

- There is a workshop series at Georgia Perimeter. The first will be "Teaching South Asia" on 28 October.
- The Council continues to offer its successful China general studies program. It also offers an India program and is developing new programs in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

#### **European Council** (Dwight Call)

- The Council has offered and will continue to offer six study abroad programs. Enrollments this past summer were much higher. Students are already turning in applications for next summer.
- The Council is considering a new program to Scotland. In contrast to its existing programs, this one will be a two-week program.
- There are fellowships of \$1,000 for faculty members to spend a week with one of the summer programs. The program was offered this past summer and proved a successful means of attracting new faculty study abroad instructors and directors.

#### **Mideast Council**

- There will be a student paper symposium in April.

#### **Minutes**

- Minutes from the previous January meeting were approved.

#### **Election of Officers**

- As the previous chair (Nancy Shumaker) has retired, the SCIE needs to elect a new chair to complete the final year of Dr. Shumaker's three-year term. Dr. Neal McCrillis was nominated and elected as Chair.
- Ulf Kirchdorfer and Carmine Palumbo were nominated as Vice-Chair to complete the term of Neal McCrillis who has become chair. Ulf Kirchdorfer was elected Vice-Chair.

#### **System Office Report (Linda Noble)**

- The USG Office is still looking at the SCIE's Campus Internationalization Strategic Plan that was approved at the last SCIE meeting. With a new chancellor and other changes at the BOR, no action has been taken.
- There was discussion about re-examining this plan at a future meeting and inviting the USG Chief Academic Officer to the next SCIE meeting. Looking at the plan again in light of the current climate would allow the committee to present the Chancellor with its most current thinking on the subject.

#### **The Role of SCIE Committees**

- Both the CISS and the Study Abroad Committee are active, but the Faculty Internationalization Committee has low attendance and no longer has funds to distribute, since faculty development money is no longer available. There was discussion about whether curriculum development should be the purview of this committee, but most representatives stated that curriculum is campus-based. Specific issues that might have fallen under the FIC could be explored through working groups of the larger SCIE.
- Chaudron Gille moved that the Faculty Internationalization Committee be abolished. The motion was passed with two abstentions.
- The chair asked if the SCIE would prefer for meetings to include a presentation from a campus or committee concerning best practices or initiatives? There was no consensus in favor of including such an element in future meetings, but members could suggest such presentations if they had items or programs they wished to share.
- The committee decided to eliminate a regular April meeting and meet only once a semester (in September and January). The next meeting will be 27 January.

#### **Other Business**

- A question was raised by Dlynn Armstrong-Williams about restrictive policies for traveling to state meetings. It was agreed that these restrictions are probably campus-based and not BOR rules. Another member asked about the cumbersome restrictions on P-cards for study abroad, particularly that faculty costs can not be paid with the cards.

Linda Noble said those rules are not likely to be changed due to problems uncovered (not in study abroad) several years ago.

- Dlynn Armstrong-Williams stated there are two contract positions for Military International Program Coordinators open at North Georgia College & State University. There is information on the university's web page.
- The Georgia Consortium for International Studies will be held 24 February at Georgia Perimeter College. Information is on the GCIS website ([www.gacis.org](http://www.gacis.org)).

Meeting adjourned at 11:55.