

9/28/2021

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Jose Luis Antinao, Israel Herrera (co-chairs), Akram Habibulla, Lana Spendl (BFC-Office), Adam VanDeusen, Michael Brose (left at 4.30), Xin Chen (left at 4.15), Chris Sapp (joined at ~4.10).

Meeting started at 3:36 pm.

- Discussion following Agenda (posted):

1. Minutes for previous meetings were approved.
2. Scheduling. BFC IAC Co-Chairs Jose Antinao and Israel F. Herrera shared the meeting dates for the Fall semester (Oct. 12, 26, Nov. 9, Nov. 30, after Thanksgiving week). Meetings will be on Wednesdays from 3:30 pm to 5 pm every other week in weeks the BFC does not meet. The timing aims to include as many members as possible; co-chairs will schedule discussion so members can maximize contribution. The idea of running a last Fall meeting on Dec. 14 was dismissed by the committee.

One member suggested the possibility of recording the IAC meetings in case of missing one. It would also give the opportunity to other members, who might not be able to attend the Wednesday meetings, to follow committee discussion. It was approved by all members to record meetings. Recordings should remain accessible for IAC members and not everyone else.

3. IU Vice President for International Affairs Hannah Buxbaum joined the meeting at 4:30 pm. The main goals of this scheduled presentation were to reconnect with the committee and to answer some of the questions the committee raised in the previous meeting. Vice President Buxbaum provided updates about the international IU Gateways, international partnerships, study abroad programs.

After introduction of members and VP Buxbaum, she described the office and the university-wide mandate her office has. OVPIA is responsible for study abroad, recruitment and services to international students and scholars, the global gateway network, the partnerships portfolio, and an office of international development. There is an office at IUPUI.

VP Buxbaum mentioned that while IU President Whitten has not stated her position regarding IU Global Engagement, there has not been any suggestions that IU will change its international strategy. IU will keep working with the global gateway offices, keep and expanding partnerships, ramp up study abroad participation as a priority, while also increased diversity and geographical diversification of offers.

VP Buxbaum shared information regarding the new leadership in the Study Abroad Office and the interest of increasing diversity representation. Buxbaum highlighted the great work done by the Kelley Office for Study Abroad.

VP Buxbaum noted that the International Gateways will have the same organizational structure and that pending funding, the logical plan will be opening a new one in Africa. An Africa gateway will take precedence over the possibility of opening one in South America.

VP Buxbaum shared funding options for faculty professional development and international projects, noticing that funding for her office has not changed, while some departments might have less funds available for travel, which is affecting international work. She commented on the mobility grants.

VP Buxbaum commented on the Strategic Plan Framework 2030. BFC IAC Co-Chair Jose Antinao mentioned there is no information regarding global commitment in the first summary announcements.

VP Buxbaum explained the roles for the different leaders in the International Affairs Office. It seems that there is no specific representative from her office for the campus. VP Buxbaum clarified that Hilary Kahn and she represent international interests for all campuses. One IAC member reminded Buxbaum the need for our committee to have an International Affairs Office representative.

Regarding the structure of OVPIA, VP Buxbaum commented that one AVP position (AVP Research and Engagement) was eliminated, because the portfolio become redundant with some of the other offices. When asked to clarify about the role of the AVP for International Research and Development, Teshome Alemneh, she explained that this position oversees Institutional Development Projects, with the idea of leveraging the research expertise in the service of externally funded projects. There is also a new AVP for study abroad, Kathleen Sideli. A major reconstruction of the administration is not underway, however.

VP Buxbaum also highlighted the importance of aligning international affairs, curriculum, research with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. She suggested incorporating Elly Cohen to proceed with the discussion in this committee.

VP Buxbaum emphasized that it was very unusual to have former president McRobbie involvement with international affairs, with a high level of visibility. Right now, IU is operating the way most universities operate, where international work lives with faculty, units, and OVPIA.

4. BFC IAC member Chris explained how the campus admission policy is affecting his department and other departments regarding the admission of international graduate students. International students are considering other US universities that accept 3-year European BA degrees. It seems IU requests European students to have one more year of undergraduate studies.

A link shared by Chris Sapp about the potential impact of this issue:

<https://www.petersons.com/blog/us-graduate-admission-the-impact-of-the-bologna-process/>

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm