

10/12/2022

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Jose Luis Antinao, Israel Herrera (co-chairs), Akram Habibulla, Issam Albdairat, Adam VanDeusen, Emma Dederick. Agness Lungu (IUSG representative) joined at 4pm

Michael Brose, Chris Sapp, and Xin Chen excused absences

Meeting started at 3:30 pm. Remote via Zoom.

- Discussion following Agenda (posted):

1-Minutes for 9/28 meeting were approved.

2- Discussion on a report to present at the BFC meeting on November 15th, 2022. [Antinao].

A brief explanation was made on draft two points for the presentation that is now scheduled for December 6th. They deal with introducing work done establishing a connection with OVPIA (2021/22) and work done developing internationalization learning goals for the Bloomington campus (2020/21). Co-chair Antinao expressed that the IAC has not yet realized any meaningful input from the broader faculty, and that this is a point to highlight and to develop during this year and in the future. We have talked about a survey- but we have never done it (this is linked with point 3 in the agenda).

Co-chair Herrera highlights that this will be a possibility for the BFC members to share any concern that the BFC-IAC can address. Also this is a possibility for us as the BFC-IAC to address the campus executive administration.

Issam mentioned that we could tackle the issue of international students: needs, challenges. Especially after COVID, since 2020, how to deal with future issues, learning from how that situation was handled is an example. For example, IU joined Harvard and other universities to challenge government mandates that might have harmed international students. It is part of our job to protect international students and scholars. A connection can be made with the departments to address the issue of fellowships, check if there is anything our committee can do for our students, and connect with the international faculty. One example Issam mentioned was a meeting at his school with the Qatar Foundation, with support from the dean, where an agreement was drafted. Similar, future connections can benefit international student and scholars' bodies and for IU-Bloomington. The environment and timing is good for this type of international connections to work.

Jose Luis mentioned that a suggestion can be made to the provost, to try to send BFC-IAC minutes to representatives at the school level. Another suggested action for the provost office, could be appointing at the school level a representative, so we can communicate with students and scholars. These points relating communication will be taken into consideration and added to our presentation.

3 Reconnecting with faculty about international affairs: Potential questions to ask in a Survey. [Antinao, Herrera]

BFC-IAC worked on the issue two years ago, and a survey has been encouraged this cycle by Exec and Cate Reck. Adam asked if BFC sends these surveys regularly. Israel mentioned that BFC representatives usually will be the ones sending questions to the list serve. It does not come from the BFC office. Issues that have been addressed include creating a new rank for lecturers, sustainability issues. The survey collects data and then information is distributed to BFC after collection.

It was discussed to keep the survey short to maximize chances for faculty to finish it. Emma suggested to include the Center for Survey Research (<https://csr.indiana.edu/>) that can assist us with survey construction.

Jose Luis showed two statements from the discussion on this topic the IAC was working on two years ago. A starting point will be to look at this discussion paragraph (posted here: https://indiana.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/msteams_f2957b/Shared%20Documents/General/2020-2021/Meeting1022-Minutes-discussion.docx?d=wb54d7e6e21eb40798a07b720ef8d7306&csf=1&web=1&e=fTiTga).

Emma suggested to write an introductory paragraph to signal what we can accomplish. Jose Luis agreed that this is a key point: we need to connect to faculty and learn about issues from a broader set of faculty, not only those connected to the committee. The Exec have observed this and suggested to run the survey. The survey must be directed and precise for a diagnosis, as this will guide the next few years of work for this committee.

Emma suggested that we could use the format that the libraries use in their emails or surveys: what do [faculty] think about **existing** services? If the survey is worded in that way, they realize there is a service and they can comment on it. In our case, what do you think about what OVPIA offers? Gateways, funding sources, do you know they exist?

Israel proposed two questions: One is asking what resources, services or opportunities faculty would like to have access to, and the second, as a feedback, any international affairs issues you are concerned campus wide. Another point brought by Israel: how many questions. If survey is short, more faculty might respond. 4, 6, 7. Emma suggested identifying the topics then how many questions. A survey and a follow up survey could be used instead of a long one. More than 20 minutes should be avoided and avoid any redundancy. Jose Luis mentions that Cate Reck might have a say on this, suggesting four or less questions.

The whole committee agreed that the survey needs to be addressed to the broader faculty, not just to who appear to be working on international issues or to international scholars. This broader survey will bring more ideas. A last question brought by Issam: how would like you for the BFC-IAC to serve you or international students.

4- Creation of awards for international students and scholars or to faculty with international projects and programs [Herrera].

It was explained that as BFC-IAC we have not had recognitions or awards to faculty before. This would be equivalent to the awards that the Diversity area has. Provost Robel approved an amount of money for creating, maintaining and promoting this recognition for diversity projects, for faculty and students. The idea will be to work in a proposal to recognize achievement on campus about international work and students and scholars. It is a way to recognize international faculty and students and work, like what other groups do, like the Latino faculty in campus, or Black, Native American associations.

Discussion followed on sources of funding. Issam mentioned that we could get schools on board; if we get the green light from schools to support it, that would be a good initiative. A suggestion was made [Antinao] to tackle this at the vice presidency level. Israel suggests that the Provost could be the initial source of funding, and the President's office, through OVPIA, only as a secondary source (Antinao mentioned that we should not forget that Buxbaum is also the CIO for Bloomington campus).

Another topic discussed was how will we judge students and faculty? Will there be a separate committee? It was discussed that the awards should have a broader level of assessment, with categories for faculty, students, combined projects. The purpose will be to keep having these recognitions year after year. Antinao suggested a category could be made for staff helping international students (linking administration then).

Israel expressed that he could talk to Selene Carter; she was the co-chair when they created the awards.

It was discussed that members of this committee can serve to judge but also ad-hoc members to create a selection committee. Emma suggested that mostly members should be from outside the BFC-IAC. The co-chairs will prepare a document to have a specific proposal at the end of the year. It is requested from the members to have different categories, if we are forgetting something today, to include all in the preliminary proposal to the provost. A draft document will be posted in the Sharepoint folders.

5- [Antinao] Announcements: Upcoming visits by Elly Cohen (Director of International Education Programs and Outreach, HLS), scheduled for **November 9th** to discuss about **international learning goals and her work with UN goals**. John Wilkerson (Associate Vice President for International Services) and Rachel Salinas (Executive Director, International Admissions) are scheduled for our **November 30th** meeting to explain the **policy of admissions regarding international students, specifically how many years are required pre-graduation to be admitted**, and how the Bologna Process might be affecting or not admissions.

6- New business. The committee welcomed our new international student representative for IUGS, Agness Lungu.

The committee asked Agness if IUGS has a connection to graduate international students, and if students talk about common issues. She replied that not much of a connection exists.

Israel also asked if OIS is the only communication channel from IU, if there is specific information that need to be conveyed to students, or if international students can have different ways to know about

international affairs. Agness replied that only through OIS. This communication is sparse, sometimes about events, and for example tax season. Communication is about once a month, not very frequent. The co-chairs expressed that they will investigate if communication can be improved with OVPIA.

Agness mentioned that an issue that international students experience is problems with study-abroad or language requirements. Agness mentioned that international students sometimes speak several languages, but because our campus does not have the capacity to test students on all of them, students' knowledge is not taken into consideration, ending up with an extra burden. Somebody at IUGS has mentioned BFC as an avenue to move forward addressing this issue.

Israel thanked Agness for the comment and mentioned that this committee could be the bridge to help solve this issue. We can talk to Lana Spendl and Cate Reck, to address this issue at the BFC. If there is a policy, is this at the campus, school level, etc.? What is the process we could follow to change it? Jose Luis agreed and mentioned that the issue could be brought up to another committee and the administration.

Issam suggested adding to our discussion to develop another survey for our international students. What are their concerns? Our committee can serve as a channel, as in this case that Agness just mentioned.

7- New business. BFC-IAC online presence and visibility.

Issam asked how people know about our committee. Do we have a meaningful committee online presence? It was discussed that our presence is bare bones: the website states our mission, and a listing of meeting times, and minutes. We could push online committee presence through OVPIA, and OIS. At the beginning of the year or semester, in the emails that the students receive, we could also include our presence as an additional resource to link campus administration and students. Israel suggested that we can also link documents, and upload any discussion and resolutions to the BFC floor, incorporate that in the website.

Jose Luis suggested to work on posting minutes with Lana and Chad. Israel added that this is an important way to interact with faculty, as questions might come after posting minutes and generate discussion.

Jose Luis added that we could work right away with OVPIA through OIS John Wilkerson to start spreading the word to students about the BFC-IAC.

Meeting ended at 5 PM.