The University of Texas at Dallas

International Education Development Committee

(IEDC)

Meeting - Thursday, November 30, 2017

Minutes


Absent: Sravya Boppuri, Jessica Murphy, Sanaz Okhovat, Wray Weldon, and Anvar Zakhidov.

Guests: Marilyn Kaplan, Michele Lockhart, Victoria McCrady, Alejandro Rivera, Michael Seeligson, and Gerald Soliday.

1. Welcome remarks

Rodolfo welcomed IEDC members and guests to the first IEDC meeting, sharing some historical facts regarding the International Partnership Development Committee (IPDC) – IEDC transition.

- The IEDC was created in September 2017 as a university – wide standing committee, appointed by UT Dallas President.

- The IEDC replaces the ad hoc International Partnership Development Committee (IPDC), created in November 2014 to respond strategically to the growing number of international partnerships proposed by faculty.

- From November 2014 to August 2017, IPDC members reviewed and approved 84 proposals.

- From the AY2016 to the AY2017, the percentage of international partnership proposals increased by 104%.

- As of November 2017, UT Dallas has 103 international partnerships with 70 higher education institutions in 24 countries.

Rodolfo took the opportunity to thank IPDC members.

He acknowledged

- the collective effort for the creation of a systematic process for the design, submission, review, approval, and implementation of international partnerships, including academic affairs, student affairs, business affairs, the office of research, the attorney, UT System, and partner institutions;

- the fact that the IEDC will cover not only topics related to international partnerships but others such as education abroad.
• the international education as a tool to enhance academic freedom without jeopardizing the legitimacy and integrity of UT Dallas academic programs, while reinforcing the prestige and character of UT Dallas around the world.

2. Introduction of IEDC Members and Guests

Introductions.

3. IEDC Charge and Operation

i. Types of agreement
ii. Monthly meetings
iii. Deadline for the submission of agenda topics / international partnership proposals
iv. Votes for policy / recommendations
v. Votes for international partnerships
vi. Consent items (minutes, AOC, MOU, and AA)

Rodolfo invited IEDC members to review the IEDC Charge and discuss practices of IEDC’s operation. IEDC members agreed to the following: IEDC will meet the last Thursday of each month from 3.30 to 5 pm. The deadline for the submission of international partnership proposals / agenda items will be one week before the meeting and the meeting’s material (package) will be delivered to IEDC members the Monday before the meeting.

According to the IEDC Charge, it was distinguished that all IEDC members will have a vote for international education policy recommendations. However, the Director of Admissions, University Registrar, Education Abroad (EA) Director, and, International Partnership Development (IPD) Director will not have vote for international partnerships. IEDC members questioned this limitation of votes for partnerships. **Action item**: Serenity requested to postpone this discussion until the organizational changes of the International Center are achieved. IEDC members agreed.

It was proposed to continue including consent items in the IEDC monthly meetings to enhance efficiency and the effective use of time, i.e. minutes, agreements of cooperation, memoranda of understanding, and affiliation agreements. IEDC members agreed.

4. Consent Agenda

i. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UT Dallas and Universidad de Sonora (UNISON), Mexico. Sponsor: Manuel Quevedo, EJS

ii. Affiliation Agreement between UT Dallas JSOM and University of Economics in Katowice, Poland. Sponsor: Marilyn Kaplan, JSOM

Dr. Blanchard submitted the **motion** to approve the consent items. Seconded by Dr. Harpham. All in favor. Unanimously approved.
5. 30 c/h requirement for Education Abroad

Serenity introduced the topic. In general, it was discussed certain limitations for TAMS / Richland Collegiate / dual credit / AP students to participate in international education, particularly how the length of time may become a constraint to meet education abroad requirements such as the 30 c/h for exchange mobility. IEDC members recognized that this may impact the current definition of “freshmen” under the circumstances of these students in order to enhance flexibility for their participation in education abroad (freshmen versus transfer students, for example), but at the same time to comply with existing UT Dallas EA policies, particularly 30 c/h. IEDC members discussed the relevance of UT Dallas GPA and the maturity of UT Dallas students as criteria to participate in education abroad, particularly for long term programs. It was suggested that the Associate Deans may play a fundamental role to endorse students to participate in education abroad.

Benchmarking by the Provost’s Office and the International Center were included in the meeting’s material, observing that institutions' criteria included completion of two semesters, but did not specify number of hours, to participate in education abroad.

Serenity made the motion to propose that CUE re-evaluate the current 30 semester credit hour requirement for Education Abroad, based on a recommendation from the IEDC for CUE to consider instead (1) requiring at least 24 SCH, 12 of which should be UT Dallas credits, and (2) approval of the student’s corresponding Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education (ADU). The proposed revision is subject to the CUE. Dr. Harpham seconded. All in favor. Unanimously approved.

6. Exchange Mobility Update

On behalf of the International Center, Lisabeth presented an overview of exchange mobility as of Fall 2017:

- 37 Student Exchange Program Agreements (SEPAs) in 17 countries.
- Germany the number one exchange destination for UT Dallas students, followed by France, S. Korea, and China.
- China with the highest number of SEPAS with UT Dallas, followed by France, S. Korea, and Germany.
- 46% of SEPAs at the University level, 48% at the JSOM level.

Lisabeth invited IEDC members to further discuss exchange mobility in future meetings, including the following considerations:

- Diversifying available majors
- Articulation of courses
- Cultivate advising to support degree “fit”
- Expand Locations / Countries
- Flexibility with reciprocity

Discussion: IEDC members welcomed the presentation, sharing some perspectives regarding the Texas Higher Coordinating Board guidelines to implement exchange programs with emphasis on reciprocity. They agreed to include this topics in the next IEDC meeting.
7. Partnership Proposals

i. Addendum: Student Exchange Program Agreement (SEPA) between UT Dallas and Philipps-Universität Marburg (Marburg), Germany. Sponsor: Gerald Soliday, A&H (p. 37-43)

Dr. Soliday presented the addendum proposal of the UT Dallas – Marburg Student Exchange Program Agreement (SEPA), sharing a historical overview of the UT Dallas – Marburg partnership. Dr. Harpham submitted the motion to recommend the approval and implementation of the addendum. Seconded by Jane. All in favor. Unanimously approved. Rodolfo thanked Dr. Soliday for his leadership in this UT Dallas – Marburg partnership and collaboration with the International Center.

ii. Student Exchange Program Agreement between UT Dallas and the University of East Anglia, U.K. Sponsor: Stephen Spiro, NSM (p. 44-71)

Due to the remaining limited time and since Dr. Spiro was not able to attend the meeting, Rodolfo recommended to move this proposal to the next IEDC meeting with the participation of Dr. Spiro. IEDC members agreed.

8. Discussion Items:

i. Davis Program – Alejandro Rivera

Prof. Alejandro Rivera presented the Davis Scholarship Program, inviting IEDC members to consider the affiliation of UT Dallas as part of the Davis United World College (UWC) Scholars Program, which provides grants to the affiliated institutions to support UWC graduates to pursue degrees at these institutions. In general, the program would pay the difference between the host institution’s tuition and what the UWC students can pay, relying on financial aid information. A power point presentation is in record.

Prof. Rivera explained that the affiliation requires an institutional commitment to recruit UWC students: a) sharing UT Dallas recruitment material with UWC and b) actively recruiting at North American UWCs. He recognized that this potential partnership may have a small, but positive impact, e.g. no more than a couple students per year.

Note: Prof Rivera presented the program to IPDC members in May 2017, who requested him to present this topic again to IEDC in Fall 2018.

Discussion: IEDC discussed pros and cons, including institutional capacity and responsibilities to coordinate the expected institutional commitment to recruit UWC students. Action item: IEDC members requested to Prof. Rivera the list of affiliated universities and any other relevant information to further assess the opportunity. Rodolfo invited Prof. Rivera to submit this information to be shared with IEDC members in the next IEDC meeting. Prof. Rivera agreed. Rodolfo thanked Prof. Rivera.

ii. Articulation of transfer of credits / tables / process

Due to the remaining limited time, Rodolfo requested Lisabeth to introduce briefly this topic to IEDC members to further discuss it in the next IEDC meeting. Lisabeth explained the importance of the
articulation of transfer of credits to effectively implement SEPA proposals, including renewals. Lisabeth invited IEDC members to further discuss how to academically validate, in advance, these tables before their submission along with the SEPA proposals to IPD for IEDC’s perusal.

It was noted that the SEPA’s articulation of credit process was defined by IPDC members in February 2017. Minutes were included in the IEDC meeting’s material. Rodolfo thanked Lisabeth.

iii. **Number of credit hours for short term programs:** max of 15 c/h per week per course, no more than two courses (p. 74-78)

Due to time, Rodolfo recommended to postpone the discussion of this topic to the next IEDC meeting. IEDC members agreed.

9. **Other business**

Dr. Harpham shared historical notes and vision regarding the partnership between the UT Dallas Honors Program and the South East University (SEU) Honors Program in Nanjing, China. Particularly, he highlighted the mobility of honors students between the two institutions, anticipating a faculty led program with emphasis on Chinese culture and society for UT Dallas honors students to attend SEU in the summer 2018 under his academic leadership. In order to formalize this partnership, he announced that a MOU proposal will be presented to IEDC in its next meeting.

Rodolfo thanked Dr. Harpham, offering the guidance of the IC for both the faculty led program and the MOU.

10. **Adjournment –**

Rodolfo announced that the next IEDC meeting will be in January 2018 and thanked IEDC members and guests, recognizing the success of this first IEDC meeting.