International Education Council

Meeting Minutes
October 3rd, 2025
Blair Hall Conference Room 3108

Members present: Krishna Daravath, Catherine Polydore, Dave Viertel, Jessica Tindira, Lisa Brooks, Kristin Brown

Members absent: Miracle Langston, David Melton, Gopal Periyannan, Micheal Beck, Kiran Padmaraju

Ex-officio present: Angela Jacobs, Tanya Willard, Andy Kabasele, Bobbi Kingery

Ex-officio absent: Andrew Kerins

Visitors present: Heather Crank, Ellie Bush, Ben Reinbolt

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Dave Viertel called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Minutes from May and September meetings were reviewed and approved by voice vote from Dave Viertel and Catherine Polydore respectively while Jessica Tindira seconded both motions. Kristin Brown abstained from these motions.

Furthermore, the committee touched on scholarships. The international scholarships have all been reviewed and ranked. However, the study abroad scholarships and proposals are still in review.

The meeting reviewed proposed bylaw changes. Jessica Tindira motioned and Dave Viertel seconded the motion for the addition of an Ex-Officio member from Career Services. However, the motion to add the Study Abroad Director to Executive Board meetings was held to no vote and will be reviewed in January. Furthermore, the committee has discussed the appointment of new members on bylaws and the prospect of Ex- Officio members being voting members, however, the executive board has decided against this action. The IEC is a faculty led committee, and the Ex-Officio members are here to serve as advising members to the committee. The by-laws will be revisited again in January after the university completes its re-organization and will reassess for Fall 2026.

II. Reports

1. International Students and Scholars: Mr. Mutombo Andy Kabasele

Mr. Andy Kabasele with International Students and Scholars presented the enrollment. Applications are currently at 733 applications, 355 undergraduate applications with 142 students admitted. Mr. Kabasele touched on social media has impacted prospective students contributing to the high rate of visa denial. In addition, there are recommendations for students to avoid large events due to current ICE raids, including the FIFA events taking place in the US.

2. International Programs: Krishna Daravath

Krishna Daravath, touched on AIS board members who will be graduating and recruiting future members. Krishna talked about current events taking place on campus. The previous day, they celebrated a Hindu festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. Ben Reinbolt helped with the event and its success. Krishna provided many videos and pictures of the celebration.

3. **Study Abroad: Heather Crank**

Mrs. Heather Crank provided an update on faculty-led programs, study abroad promotional activities, and study abroad scholarships. Thus far, there are 3 finalized faculty-led programs plus another tentative program. For spring 2026, 10 students have started their applications, however, there's a total pf 44 applications for the 25-26 fiscal year is See the attached report for more information regarding these topics.

III. Dean Angela Jacob's Report

Dean Jacobs asked the committee to brainstorm initiatives to best serve our international students. As an international student, Krishna was able to touch on what he hears from his peers and his experience. Many international students are struggling with loneliness. Many of our students come from cultures where they are surrounded by community and family, but when they come here, they are isolated. Some initiatives to better serve our international population included simply asking the students directly what they need and finding the right support for them. This is especially important with holidays approaching. Many international students can feel left out by their peers and reintroducing the buddy program could help with this. In addition, international students specifically need support during their transition in and out of EIU. Catherine and Tanya are heading a subcommittee for this with the help from one of the student representatives.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 AM.

IEC Monthly Meeting – 10/02/2025

Faculty Led Programs Update

These are the finalized programs we have thus far.

- Exploration of Italian Business, Technology, History, and Culture – Jay Grabiec and Nic Robinson
- Art in Florence and Rome – Dr. Eskilson and Jenny Chi
- CDS Therapy Abroad in Jamaica – Dr. Throneburg

Tentative Programs – waiting for IEC Review.

- Sport Industry in the United Kingdom – Dr. James Barkley

Other Study Abroad Programs and Study Abroad Scholarships on Academicworks

Deadlines for J-Term, Spring Break, Spring Semester: - October 28th

Summer 2025, Faculty Leds – February 11th, 2026

Fall and Academic Year 2025-2026 – March 4th, 2026

Fall 2025 Enrollment

We have 7 Students going abroad this fall.

2 South Korea, Costa Rica, Ireland, Spain, Australia, Germany

AY 2025-2026 Applications (as of 10/02/2025)

1 Student has committed.

Total = 1 Application

Spring 2026 Enrollment (as of 10/02/2025)

10 Students have started their applications for Spring 2026

Total = 10 Applications

J-Term 2026 Enrollment (as of 10/02/2025)

Total = 0 Students

Summer 2026 (as of 10/02/2025)

8 students have started an application

Total = 8 Applications

Faculty Led 2026 (as of 10/02/2025)

Applications for Exploration of Italian Business, Technology, History, and Culture

- 15 Applications

Application for the Art in Florence and Rome Program

- 0 Applications

Applications for the CDS Therapy Abroad in Jamaica program

- 0 Applications

Total = 0 applications

Academic Year 2026-2027 Applications (as of 10/02/2025)

Total = 0 Applications

Fall 2026 Applications (as of 10/02/2025)

1 student has started an application

Total = 3 applications

Total Applications 25-26 as of 10/02/2025 – 44 applications



Study Abroad Promotional Activities – Past

9/10 – STUDY ABROAD FAIR!! 10am-3pm Library Quad. I wanted to highlight this as a HUGE success! After getting the numbers from the vendors and check-in table, we had over 350 students stop and check our fair out! That is the largest number of students we have had in over 5 years!

9/13 – Open House – Miracle was able to table this and stated several students and their families stopped by and got information.

9/15 – Latino Heritage Month Kickoff – We had a table at the LHM Kickoff and had 5 students stop by for information on programs.

9/24 – Bio Presentation – Presented to BIO 1150 and had 6 students from that class reach out within 24 hours of the presentation.

9/27 – TRIO Retreat – Tabling and Presentation (anticipated 80 students) – The retreat was a success. Each student received information in their swag bags and at least half of the participants stopped by our table.

10/1 – Political Science Presentation – Presented to a Political Science Class. I have met with 4 students from that class since then.

Study Abroad Promotional Activities – Future

TENT: October– Study Abroad for Graduate Students (11am to 1pm) – Waiting for confirmation with GSAC

10/13 – Open House

10/15 – Study Abroad Drop In Hours (5-7pm Taylor Lobby)

10/21 – USAC Campus Visit

10/21 – Honors Students Information Session 430-530 Taylor Lobby

10/22 – Study Abroad Drop-In Hours 4-6pm Taylor Lobby

10/23 – Harlaxton College Campus Visit

November/ December Tentative Events

International Education Week

11/11 – Open House

12/12 – Admitted Student Day