International Education Council

Meeting Minutes
November 7th, 2025
Blair Hall Conference Room 3108

Members present: Chimziebere P Chuku **(AIS VP**), Catherine Polydore, Dave Viertel, Jessica Tindira, Lisa Brooks, Kristin Brown, David Melton

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

Ex-officio present: Angela Jacobs, Tanya Willard, Tyler Custer, Bobbi Kingery

Ex-officio absent: Andrew Kerins

Visitors present: Heather Crank, Ellie Bush, Ben Reinbolt

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Kristin Brown called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. October meeting minutes were reviewed and approved via voice vote by Dave Viertel and Jessica Tindira seconded the motion with minor adjustments to the attendance from the previous meeting.

Due to university restructuring, Andy Kabasele has permanently separated from EIU and is on administrative leave for the remainder of the semester. This came as a shock to many and brought up concerns about the future of the international office. The Assistant Dean position has been permanently eliminated, and Tyler Custer will be stepping in as Interim Director of International Programs. The international office has a strategic plan going forward to address and ease some of these concerns, however, they are aware of how this change can be stressful for everyone.

II. Reports

1. International Students and Scholars: Tyler Custer

Mr. Tyler Custer, with International Students and Scholars, presented an enrollment update. Applications for the spring 2026 are at 425 graduate applications with 255 decisions made (60%), 87 incomplete (20%), and 81 depending department decision. The applications are as follows: Ghana 155, Nigeria 89, Pakistan 52, Bangladesh 36, and India 34. Undergraduate applications are at 418 applications with 278 decisions made (67%), 138 incomplete (33%). The applications are as follows: Ghana 113, Nigeria 55, Pakistan 48, India 26, and Bangladesh 24.

Per last meeting, visa denial rates are at an all time high which presents a challenge for EIU. In India, visa denial rate is at 90%. Education USA has been shut down for the time being, along with other government programs. Ice scam calls have been on a rise and have been reported by 3

international students. We advise students to not answer these calls or give out any personal information. Lastly, OISS has been working on recruitment with agencies.

2. **International Programs**
   AIS VP, Chimziebere P Chuku, stood in for AIS president, Krishna Daravanth, and gave us an update on events. International Education Week is quickly approaching, and they will have a week full of activities. Some events that are taking place are the international game night, intercontinental film fest, roots & recipes food night, and more. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this event.

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 4 finalized faculty led programs. For the academic year, they have 54 applications, including 6 students participating in spring and 12 total applications for summer. International Education week is around the corner and there are many events to attend in the coming weeks. For more information, see the attached report.

III. Dean's Report: Dr. Angie Jacobs

Dean Jacobs presented the climate survey that was recently created. Next meeting, she's seeking feedback regarding the survey. In addition to this, the committee discussed holding a coat and mittens drive with plans to start it during IEC week.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.

IEC Monthly Meeting – 11/07/2025

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
- 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 Scholarships are now available for review! I will be letting students know next week of their scholarships.

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 11/06/2025)

1 Student has committed.

Total = 1 Student

Spring 2026 Enrollment (as of 11/06/2025)

We have 6 Students participating this spring.

2 Costa Rica, Australia, Greece, Japan, New Zealand

J-Term 2026 Enrollment (as of 11/06/2025)

Total = 0 Students

Summer 2026 (as of 11/06/2025)

8 students have started an application

1 has been accepted

3 students have committed

Total = 12 Applications

Faculty Led 2026 (as of 11/06/2025)

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

- 18 Started
- 3 Accepted
- 3 Committed
- Total = 25 Applications

Application for the Art in Florence and Rome Program

- 1 Application started

Applications for the CDS Therapy Abroad in Jamaica program

- 1 Application Started

Applications for Sport Industry in the UK

- 1 Student Accepted

Total = 28 applications

Fall 2026 Applications (as of 11/06/2025)

5 students have started an application

1 student has committed

Total = 6 applications

Academic Year 2026-2027 Applications (as of 11/06/2025)

Total = 6 Applications

Total Applications 25-26 as of 11/06/2025 – 54 applications

Study Abroad Promotional Activities – Past

10/13 – Open House – Was a success! We had about 60 students stop by our table.

10/15 – Study Abroad Drop In Hours (5-7pm Taylor Lobby) We had 2 students stop by for our drop in hours.

10/21 – USAC Campus Visit – Kim from USAC came to visit campus. We had 2 students stop by.

10/21 – Honors Students Information Session 430-530 Taylor Lobby 5 students attended to learn about studying abroad and the Honors scholarship.

10/22 – Study Abroad Drop-In Hours 4-6pm Taylor Lobby – We had 2 students stop by for these last-minute Drop-in Hours

10/23 – Harlaxton College Campus Visit – Jordan from Harlaxton College came to campus and had 10 students stop by our tabling.

Study Abroad Promotional Activities – Future

11/11 – Open House

12/12 – Admitted Student Day

