International Education Council

Meeting Minutes
March 6th, 2026
Blair Hall Conference Room 2116

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

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

Ex-officio present: Tyler Custer, Angela Jacobs

Ex-officio absent: Andrew Kerins, Bobbi Kingery, Agnes Yigah (Afi)

Visitors present: Ellie Bush, Kaleb Hemrich, Ben Rienbolt

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Kristin Brown called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. February minutes have been postponed to April as there wasn't enough for quorum. The committee discussed appointment of members as some committee members' terms are coming to an end. Currently, Catherine Polydore is on the committee on behalf of two different departments. This will be revisited for the fall semester.

II. Reports

1. International Students and Scholars: Mr. Tyler Custer

Mr. Tyler Custer gave an update on enrollment, current in office events, and recruitment. Currently, there are 1011 total graduate applications with 481 incomplete (48%), 330 decisions made (33%), 192 pending department decisions, and 8 comp R2R (1%). Ghana is leading applications with a total of 612, followed by Nigeria (124), Pakistan (68), Bangladesh (56), and India (31) respectively. There are a total of 1129 undergraduate applications with 684 incomplete (61%) and 358 decisions made (32%). Ghana leads applications with 338, followed by Nigeria (112), Pakistan (65), India (45), and Kenya (43) respectively. OISS has hosted an OPT informational session that had a good turnout of around 40 students. To support students in the filing process, they will be hosting multiple I-765 workshops. Mr. Custer attended an informational meeting with Education USA regarding the tracking and misuse of visas, forged documents, and overstay rate. Lastly, Temporary Protective Status has been canceled for Yemen.

2. International Programs: Mr. Ben Rienbolt & Krishna Daravath

Mr. Ben Rienbolt relayed changes with the scholarship banquet. The event is being combined with the Panther Leadership Awards which will be held Sunday, April 12th at 7 PM. The goal of

this change is to provide more visibility and inclusion for international students. This event is attended by all student populations of students and gives them the opportunity to be recognized by their peers and faculty. Programming has provided over 19 discount tax codes through Sprinttax to students. This past month, Global Grounds was hosted in the MLK Bridge Lounge to strengthen community connections through global conversation. This international coffee hour is designed to bring together international students, faculty, staff, and community members for informal, cross-cultural conversation. The turnout for the first event went well, and the committee hopes to host more in the future. Some events from February included a community breakfast, Taste of EIU, grocery trip, and more.

3. **Study Abroad: Mr. Kaleb Hemrich**

Mr. Kaleb Hemrich reported on behalf of Mrs. Heather Crank who is in Taipei Taiwan for the Fulbright IEA Seminar from March 9th to March 20th. For summer 2026, there have been 9 total applications with 2 accepted and 7 committed students. The Art in Florence and Rome Program has been canceled due to low enrollment. For the academic year 2026-2027, there have been a total of 18 applications. For more information, please see the attached report.

III. Dean's Report

Dean Jacobs updated the committee on strategic planning and housing & dining. Since the retreat in January, OISS has begun laying the groundwork for the 5 year strategic plan. The department is focusing on supporting current students whilst recruiting prospective students. Additionally, there are housing plans to create Living Learning Community for undergraduate students with an entire dorm floor designated for them. There is an empty house in the Greek Court that is going to be used for international students.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 AM.

IEC Monthly Meeting – 03/04/2026

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 – Only one Running this Year
- 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
Deadline has passed, and scholarships have been disbursed.

Summer 2025, Faculty Leds – February 11th, 2026

Deadline has passed, and scholarships have been disbursed.

Fall and Academic Year 2025-2026 – March 4th, 2026
Deadline has passed, and scholarships have been disbursed. Study Abroad Scholarship Committee is to review scholarships, and I would like be able to give scholarship letters by March 27th if possible.

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 03/04/2026)

0 – both AY students decided to return this fall.

Total = 0 Students

Spring 2026 Enrollment (as of 03/04/2026)

We have 6 Students participating this spring.

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

J-Term 2026 Enrollment (as of 03/04/2026)

Total = 0 Students

Summer 2026 (as of 03/04/2026)

2 have been accepted

7 students have committed

Total = 9 Applications

Faculty Led 2026 (as of 03/04/2026)

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

- 11 Accepted
- 16 Committed
- 10 have Paid Deposits (Confirmed)
- Total = 27 Applications

Application for the Art in Florence and Rome Program

- Cancelled – Low Enrollment

Fall 2026 Applications (as of 03/04/2026)

Total = 17 applications

Applications for the CDS Therapy Abroad in Jamaica program

- Cancelled – Low Enrollment

Applications for Sport Industry in the UK

- Cancelled – Low Enrollment

Total = 27 applications

Academic Year 2026-2027 Applications (as of 03/04/2026)

Total = 6 Applications

Total Applications 25-26 as of 03/04/2026 – 49 applications (Will be finalized on 03/09/2026)

Total Applications 26-27 as of 03/04/2026 – 18 applications

Study Abroad Promotional Activities – Past

Study Abroad Club Meeting – 2/11, 0 attendees

Admit Day – 25 Students Stopped by

Global Grounds – Went well – loved our horoscope activity

Taste of EIU – Enjoyed the foods and got to talk with approximately 40 students.

Coleman Culture Day – Presented to 70 high school students from Effingham and Strasburg.

Study Abroad Promotional Activities – Future

WorldStrides Campus Visit March 28th – 11am to 2pm

Admit Day – projected 80 students

Class Presentation – Education (30 Students)

March 30th – 1pm to 3pm American Anatolia University in Greece Campus Visit

International Education Awards Ceremony - April 12th

Fall Study Abroad Fair – September 9th 10am to 3pm Library Quad (Rain Location UBR)

Other Information

I have the wonderful achievement of receiving the Fulbright International Educators Administrators Award! I will be spending 2 weeks (March 9th to 20th) in Taipei, Taiwan recruiting partners for us along with collaborating with other international educators with how to implement Chinese learning on campuses. Itinerary is attached and I will be posting on my LinkedIn Account if anyone wants to follow!

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2026 Fulbright International Education Administrators (IEA) Program

Program Dates: March 9 – March 20, 2026

Host: Foundation for Scholarly Exchange (Fulbright Taiwan)

Program Overview

This immersive two-week program provides senior U.S. international education administrators with a deep understanding of Taiwan's higher education system. The itinerary includes high-level governmental meetings, diverse institutional visits (research, arts, technology, and vocational), and cultural engagement to foster sustainable academic partnerships between the U.S. and Taiwan.

Detailed Itinerary

Week 1: Taipei, Yilan, and Hsinchu (Northern Taiwan)

Date	Time	Activity	Location / Notes
Mar 9 (Mon)	AM	**Program Orientation** Introduction to the Fulbright Taiwan team, program goals, and logistics.	FSE Office
	Lunch	Welcome Lunch	Nearby FSE
	PM	**Meeting with the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT)** Briefing on U.S.-Taiwan relations and the U.S.-Taiwan Education Initiative.	AIT Neihu
	Dinner	**Welcome Dinner**	Hosted by FSE
Mar 10 (Tue)	AM	**Government Agency Visits** 11:00 – Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)	Taipei City
	Lunch	Networking Lunch with MOFA Representatives	
	PM	**National Taiwan University (NTU)** Visit to Taiwan's flagship research university. *Focus: Global engagement strategies and student mobility.*	NTU Campus
	Dinner	Hosted by NTU	
Mar 11 (Wed)	AM	**National Chengchi University (NCCU)** Campus tour and roundtable discussion. *Focus: Humanities, Social Sciences, and International Programs.*	NCCU Campus
	Lunch	Networking Lunch with NCCU Faculty	Taipei City

	PM	**National Palace Museum** Guided tour of one of the world's largest collections of Chinese art and artifacts.	Taipei City
	Dinner	Free evening (Suggestion: Shilin Night Market)	

Date	Time	Activity	Location / Notes
Mar 12 (Thu)	AM	**Travel to Yilan County** **Pei-Cheng Elementary School (ETA Site)** Observation of the English Teaching Assistant (ETA) program in action.	Yilan
	Lunch	Hosted by Pei-Cheng Elementary School	Yilan
	PM	**Fo Guang University (FGU)** Visit to a university founded by the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist order. *Focus: Buddhist studies, vegetarian sciences, and liberal arts.* Return to Taipei by bus.	Yilan / Taipei
	Dinner	**Vegetarian Experience** at Fo Guang University	Yilan
Mar 13 (Fri)	AM	**Travel to Hsinchu (The "Silicon Valley of Taiwan")** **National Tsing Hua University (NTHU)** **National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (NYCU)** **Minghsin University of Science and Technology (MUST)** Presentation and Tour of the Semiconductor Talent Cultivation Base. *Focus: STEM, research collaboration, and industry links.*	Hsinchu
	Lunch	Hosted by Minghsin University of Science and Technology	Hsinchu
	PM	**Yuanpei University of Medical Technology** *Focus: Healthcare Mandarin, Healthcare academic-industry collaboration*	Hsinchu
	Dinner	Hosted by Yuanpei University of Medical Technology Return to New Taipei City, Tamsui District	Hsinchu Tamsui District
Mar 14 (Sat)	AM	**Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Workshop** Interactive session with Taiwanese FLTAs heading to the U.S. Sharing insights on American campus culture.	Tamsui District
	Noon		Tamsui District
	PM	**Free Afternoon** Rest or cultural exploration.	
Mar 15 (Sun)	All Day	**Free Day**	Taipei Area

Week 2: Taichung, Tainan, and Kaohsiung (Central & Southern Taiwan)

Date	Time	Activity	Location / Notes
Mar 16 (Mon)	AM	**Travel to Taichung City** (via Bus) **China Medical University (CMU)** Tour of the Lifu Museum of Chinese Medicine and VR Acupuncture experience. *Focus: Integrative medicine and health sciences.*	Taichung
	Lunch	Hosted by CMU	Taichung
	PM	**Tunghai University (THU)** Campus tour including the iconic Luce Chapel. *Focus: Sustainability and liberal arts education.*	Taichung
	Dinner	Hosted by THU	**Overnight: Taichung**
Mar 17 (Tue)	AM	**Travel to Tainan City** (via Bus) **Tainan National University of the Arts (TNUA)** *Focus: Visual arts, applied arts, and music.*	Tainan
	Lunch	Hosted by TNUA	Tainan
	PM	**National Cheng Kung University (NCKU)** Visit to the Innovation Headquarters. *Focus: Industry-academia collaboration and engineering.*	Tainan
	Dinner	Hosted by NCKU **Travel to Kaohsiung City** (via Bus)	**Overnight: Kaohsiung**
Mar 18 (Wed)	AM	**National Kaohsiung University of Hospitality and Tourism (NKUHT)** *Focus: Culinary arts, hospitality management, and vocational training.*	Kaohsiung
	Lunch	Hosted by NKUHT (Student-run restaurant)	Kaohsiung
	PM	**National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU)** Campus tour by the ocean. *Focus: Bilingual education policy and marine sciences.*	Kaohsiung
	Dinner	Hosted by NSYSU	**Overnight: Kaohsiung**
Mar 19 (Thu)	AM	**Return to Taipei** Travel via Taiwan High Speed Rail (HSR).	Left to Taipei
	Lunch	Allowance	Taipei
	PM	**Wrap-up Discussion & Preparation Time** Reflection on institutional visits and preparation for the final forum. **Optional: Cultural Excursion: Dadaocheng**	Taipei Dadaocheng

		Historical walking tour of Old Taipei.	

Date	Time	Activity	Location / Notes
	Dinner	**Farewell Dinner** Closing ceremony and celebration.	Taipei
Mar 20 (Fri)	All Day	**FICHET International Cooperation Forum** *Co-hosted with the Foundation for International Cooperation in Higher Education of Taiwan (FICHET).* A full-day event featuring roundtables with Taiwanese university representatives (around 30 universities) to discuss future collaborations.	Taipei
	Eve	**Depart**	Taipei

Note: The itinerary is subject to minor adjustments based on final confirmations with host institutions. Transportation will be provided by private coach for inter-city travel and High Speed Rail (HSR) for the return trip from Kaohsiung.