

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 18, 2009  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL REPORT  
Dr. Comfort Pratt**

Minutes of the International Affairs Council Meeting  
Friday, October 23, 1:00 PM

Ambassador Nagy welcomed everyone to the meeting. He first gave an overview of what is going on in international education at TTU.

- 1) Currently, we have the most supportive upper administration ever at TTU. The President, Provost, and Vice President for Student Affairs are all very actively supportive of international programs and believe internationalization is important for making TTU graduates competitive.
- 2) The number of new international students is down somewhat for the fall, 2009 semester but the total number of internationals is the highest ever at over 1,600. The number of students participating in study abroad is also down for the 2008/9 academic year and for fall, 2009. The number of faculty-led programs was down by 2 this past summer. These are due to the overall economy and swine flu scare earlier in the summer.
- 3) Other issues include a new operating policy for TTU Centers, and our need to figure out how to deal with exchange rate fluctuations which produced losses due to the way we are wiring money to the centers.
- 4) We have faculty who would be willing to take students abroad in the Summer at no pay, but who are prevented because there is no salary for them in the summer and they cannot take students abroad without being compensated for teaching a course.
- 5) Thanks to Dr. Shonrock and Dean Baker for implementing a new, simplified "quick admit" process to allow students to be admitted to special programs (study abroad, international centers, dual credit).
- 6) The possible dual credit program involves high school students attending a boarding school in Switzerland. It will allow students to earn credits both towards their high school diploma and TTU courses.
- 7) There is also the possibility for TTU College of Ed students to do some of their student teaching at the Swiss school.
- 8) A delegation of TTU administrators recently visited both the Seville and Quedlinburg Centers. We'll continue to plan for such group visits twice a year. This spring we plan to take a delegation to Vietnam for 10 days to visit Hanoi, Ho Chi Men City, Da Nang, and Can Tu.
- 9) Thanks (again) to Dr. Shonrock for giving us the means to hire an international student recruiter. She is in Turkey now recruiting for TTU.

Dr. Peggy Johnson asked where we are recruiting. Ambassador Nagy said he would send a copy of the recruiting strategy to all Council members. We are for sure targeting Vietnam and Central Asia. TTU has much to offer – wind and water research. One focus is more undergraduate students; TTU has many international students at the graduate level, but we are at the bottom of the Big XII as far as undergraduates are concerned.

Dr. Comfort Pratt asked if there were plans to establish programs in Latin America and Africa. Ambassador Nagy replied that Brazil offers great possibilities because of contacts we have there. TTU has the third largest number of high school students in its ISD program, including a large number in Brazil. Distance Education & Outreach is investigating taking some of these high school students to the American School in Switzerland for a 3 hour summer program. Recruiting or opening centers in Africa is difficult due to the adjustments factors in taking TTU students to many of the developing countries there.

Dr. Peggy Johnson suggested that we should look at developing similar outreach to dependents of NGO, oil companies, etc.

Dr. Bob Crosier reported:

1) Ambassador Nagy recently sent out a reminder to colleges regarding new Department of Labor rules on initiating “permanent resident” status for hires. There must be at least one recruitment ad placed in a PRINT publication for any faculty search. If an international is hired and s/he decides to apply for permanent residence and this requirement has not been followed, we must begin the entire process again.

2) The new international recruiter made trips to Canada and Turkey. She will be focusing on China this spring.

3) Insurance for international students has been administered through Student Affairs. Beginning in August, 2010, it will move to OIA. The Department of State has published proposed regulations. They require \$200,000 of health insurance per illness or accident for J1 international students and scholars. This is double what TTU has been requiring.

Dr. Rosslyn Smith asked if the insurance included repatriation of remains. Bob responded that it does include \$25,000 for repatriation of remains and \$50,000 for medical evacuation.

Mr. Bradley Martin asked if the insurance could be paid for by the university or the student. Bob replied that it is paid for by the student. Bob stated that the process by which these payments are collected at TTU will need to change. TTU has just established a new International Insurance Advisory Committee for reviewing the entire program.

Bradley also asked if the cost of insurance can be covered by a grant. The answer was affirmative.

Dr. Shonrock stated that there is a difference between the student health service fee (Wellness Center Fee) and the cost of medical insurance. The university may pay for the latter if the student is employed at TTU.

4) Along with health insurance changes, there are also changes in other international student regulations with more emphasis on enforcement of regulations leaving little flexibility in interpretation. Bob said that it is uncertain what the final regulations will look like. Reporting/record-keeping on international students is increasing and will require more time. DOS is creating a new data-base program which will allow better communication between the various government entities, such as Homeland Security and Social Security. They will go paperless and there will be better information on international students, scholars, spouses, and dependents.

5) The new regulations will/may make it necessary to change procedures at TTU in a very short period of time. TTU may have to create new satellite international offices in various places across campus to comply with new US Government requirements.

Dr. John Kobza asked if this will mean that incoming students will need more lead time to get everything done. Bob replied that there will be fewer delays with the new paperless system and better communication among the various governmental offices.

Ambassador Nagy mentioned that the ITA workshop will change. The new format will be a summer course for credit during summer II. This new structure will allow us to generate student credit hours.

Dr. Sharynn Tomlin (ASU) asked if there was any more information on the meningitis regulations. Bob replied that there is nothing new yet.

Dr. John Kobza suggested that the OP on TTU Centers should define what a center is. We agreed to do so. Others suggested that the Handbook referred to in the OP should be on-line with the OP. We agreed that as soon as the OP is posted, we will have a link to it and put the handbook on our website.

Ms. Sandy Crosier gave the study abroad report.

1) We will establish a Study Abroad Advisory Council composed of administrators and faculty to help shape policy in study abroad.

2) Nobody had any comments or objections regarding the new Operating Procedures for TTU Centers aside from those already mentioned.

Ambassador Nagy mentioned that the overriding consideration for all study abroad programs is safety and security. Many of our students who go abroad are the first in their family to attend college and the first to have a passport. He stated that OIA takes a very conservative approach to the countries to which we send TTU students. We will not send students to countries with a State Department Warning. There is a taskforce currently revising international travel procedures: many within our TTU community may not realize that credit cards cannot be used everywhere abroad as they are used in the U.S. or that one cannot always get a receipt.

Dr. David Roach asked about the statement in the OP that the resident director at each center must establish local procedures to address on-site safety. Ambassador Nagy explained that each center must know what the safety and security risks are for that site and create plans to respond to possible emergencies including educating students at the site about what these issues are at the site.

Ms. Sandy Crosier spoke about the fact that all faculty taking students abroad now must have an emergency response plan. OIA gives them cards listing protocol for emergency response and the students receive cards with site specific contact information for the faculty leading their program and the nearest U.S. Consulate. We have also contracted with HTH Worldwide Insurance because they provide local medical resources for faculty and students wherever we have faculty-led programs.

Dr. Rosslyn Smith asked if there is a system-wide strategic plan related to recruitment of international students and for study abroad.

Dr. Shonrock reported that there is a Strategic Council. They are working with the new recruiter to set projected numbers of international students – especially undergraduates.

Dr. Bob Crosier noted that although the number of new arrivals is down a bit, the number of international students generally is more than 1600 and is the largest number ever at TTU. It represents a 12% increase over last fall due in part to the large number of doctoral students who take longer to finish.

Dr. Sharynn Tomlin gave a report on Angelo State.

- 1) The new president who has been at ASU for 3 years now has shifted money to international studies and changed the organizational system so that it is much like that of TTU. They have established an ESL program. There has been a big increase in study abroad from 8 faculty-led programs involving 157 students last summer to a potential of 13 programs with 260 students this summer.
- 2) The number of international students has increased as they began international recruiting 2 years ago. They are attending recruiting fairs in Thailand, Korea, India, and Vietnam. They have also recruited in South America with little result.
- 3) They have established a passport application acceptance office with the help of Ambassador Nagy.
- 4) They created their own data base system for study abroad. It interfaces well with banner.

Dr. John Kobza asked if they use providers for their faculty-led programs. Sharynn stated that they do most of the organization themselves. Faculty members submit a proposal to the International Education Committee and the International Center helps organize the program. They use a provider in Europe who helps with logistics.

Dr. German Nuñez reported on activities at the Health Science Center.

As HSC grows as an institution there are challenges. They manage students in professional school and some who are working on masters and doctoral programs. They have set up a new medical school in El Paso. They have established an on-line program for a second degree in nursing.

Part of the challenge is recruiting faculty in the sciences who are US citizens. They have 120 new faculty positions to fill in the next 2 years. They have residency programs in pharmacy and family medicine. Of the 40 residents, 39 are international or foreign born or trained. They do not have a recruiter because they have many more applicants than they have spots. Only one student in the past year is an F1. They

are bound by state law to receive a large percentage of Texans. He asked if post-docs are subject to the same insurance regulations as other students. Bob Crosier answered that they are not because they are not students. They are subject to J1 regulations concerning insurance. He also asked if they were subject to the same regulations on meningitis. Again Bob answered that they were not as the meningitis regulations are mainly a housing issue and these students do not live in student housing.

Dr. John Kobza brought up the problem of short-term housing for international scholars who are here for a short time. Ambassador Nagy stated that he and Dr. Shonrock had discussed this issue and hope to eventually have a private-public partnership to build housing with dedicated space for internationals.

Ambassador Nagy thanked everyone of attending the meeting and dismissed the Council.

## **TTU International Student Recruitment Strategy - Executive Summary**

Texas Tech University launched its first international student development program with the hiring of a full-time international student recruiter on April 1. The purpose of this program is to increase international enrollment to 6 percent of the total as the university seeks to reach its benchmark, 40,000-enrollment by 2020.

This plan lays out the goals and strategies for the next three academic years, measuring results by enrollment in 2010-2012. The three-year period provides a check to make sure the plan is on track toward the long-term goal and to allow for an adequate measure of a start-up recruiting program. These are the 3-year goals of the program:

- By Fall 2012, undergraduate enrollment should rise by 100 students (up 39 percent from the 2008 level) and graduate enrollment should rise by 300 students (up 26 percent from the 2008 level).
- Diversify the countries of origin for new international students.
- Support specific programs that want to recruit from countries where there exists synergy in technologies and/or research.
- Target a ratio of graduate to undergraduate international students of 4:1.

This recruiting plan was built around the university's strengths and weaknesses. As these efforts increase name recognition overseas, the object is to associate it with major strengths: competitive and distinctive programs, relative affordability and favorable climate. The recruiting strategies will include:

- Creating and redesigning web pages dedicated to the needs of prospective international students;
- Using social networking and other internet opportunities to reach students;
- Creating recruiting materials to meet specific purposes and minimize shipping costs;
- Recruiting at education fairs abroad;
- Improving name recognition and reputation with online and print advertising;
- Evaluating and targeting community colleges in Texas and New Mexico with a large enrollment of academically competitive, international students to increase international transfer students.

- Recruiting more undergraduates by building relationships abroad with secondary school counselors and EducationUSA advisors (Department of State);
- Focusing recruiting in a small number of high-potential countries. These nations are selected so as to maximize the university's strengths and minimize its weaknesses.

The program's marketing and recruiting efforts will be impacted by TTU's ability to address some of its weaknesses. Currently, the following three factors limit our competitiveness vis-à-vis our competition (other Big-12 schools and national research universities):

- Inability to offer conditional admission for international undergraduates pending the completion of an Intensive English Program or a bridge program;
- Lack of a robust Intensive English Program oriented toward academic preparation;
- Limited availability of financial assistance for undergraduates; and
- Lack of dedicated housing for international students and scholars.