

Senate Committee on International Activity**MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, February 9, 2023

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Strand Hall 3101 and Online (Zoom)

Present: Dugan O'Neil, VPRI
Carolyn Hanna, International Student Services
Shaheen Nanji, SFU International
Michael Favere-Marchesi, Beedie
Elspeth Pratt, Communications, Art and Technology
Wendy Steinberg, Lifelong Learning
Dongya Yang, Environment
Nathalie Sinclair, Education
Arne Moores, Science
Jeff Derksen, Graduate Studies (*non-voting*)

Guests: David Zandvliet, Professor, Faculty of Education

Regrets: Rummana Khan Hemani, *Vice Chair*, VPA
Bonnie Gray, Applied Sciences
Sarah Henzi, Arts and Social Sciences

Absent: Helen Pahou, Undergraduate Student

Recorder: Bill Hu (in place of Jennifer Reddington), SFU International (*non-voting*)

1. Approval of the Agenda*Adopted as presented.**Approved***2. Approval of the Minutes for December 1, 2022***Moved – Nathalie Sinclair / Seconded – Michael Favere-Marchesi**Approved***3. Business arising from the Minutes***None.***4. For Approval: Tanzania Field School [David Zandvliet, Professor, Faculty of Education, 2:10]***Moved – Wendy Steinberg / Seconded – Dongya Yang**Approved*

David Zandvliet: The Tanzania Field School is an opportunity for SFU students to explore what is possible with environmental and sustainability education at a new facility in a different part of the world. Environmental education is the core course of the program, and the same course has previously been offered in field school programs in Indonesia as well. The course is based on an inquiry model focused on experiential learning rather than lectures.

Carolyn Hanna: Very excited to have a field school program in Tanzania for the first time. If the program does not reach the minimum of 10 participants for cost recovery, what sort of support is required to incentivize students to participate?

David Zandvliet: There may be relevant grant activities and other opportunities to subsidize students.

Dugan O'Neil: As an agreement was signed with Aga Khan University (AKU) regarding the research station in Arusha, other institutions and organizations may be interested in providing scholarship support to make sure the field school can be established.

Michael Favere-Marchesi: Where will the students be housed?

David Zandvliet: AKU is excited about the potential of SFU students visiting. They are renovating a farmhouse and constructing a "camp" for visiting faculty and students for the field school. The climate there is comfortable and suited for tent living.

Shaheen Nanji: The camp is not a traditional camp but a luxury camp-accommodation setting.

Arne Moores: What is the initial interest? Are there more than 10 students interested?

David Zandvliet: The program is expected to attract far more than 10 students based on the nature of the location, the crossroads of Kilimanjaro and Serengeti. It is the ideal location for learning about environment and climate change. Through SFU's partnership with AKU, students will have access to a state-of-the-art facility and classroom to use as a home base to engage the community.

5. International Activity Roundtable

Dugan O'Neil: The SFU delegation visited Tanzania in October and spent time at the Arusha research station, doing a significant amount of work with AKU and visiting their campuses in East Africa. AKU wants SFU to take a special role in developing the research station, focused not just on field school programs but also on research opportunities.

Shaheen Nanji: Another relationship SFU has is with the University of Central Asia (UCA). SFU has maintained a relationship with them for around three years and is part of a Central Asian Faculty Development Program to upgrade the degrees of visiting students and faculty members.

Carolyn Hanna: The application has closed for student exchange programs and all nine field schools for the summer semester with great student interest.

Elsbeth Pratt: Trinity Laban has interest in establishing an exchange program with the dance program.

Nathalie Sinclair: A seed funding opportunity called FIRE for international research and education has been launched.

Dugan O'Neil: SFU hosted a Consular Corps reception last week. There were discussions with representatives of the Netherlands regarding food sustainability, which is a priority of the BC government and of SFU, and the representatives showed great interest in the B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation at SFU's Surrey campus.

Shaheen Nanji: The federal government has released an Indo-Pacific strategy. President Joy Johnson and other members of SFU are headed to Singapore for the first ever Canada-in-Asia Conference to engage partners to talk about how to be better engaged in Asia.

6. Other Business

None.

7. Confirmation of next meeting:

Meeting schedule to be revised with meeting frequency reduced to once per semester, which is consistent with the requirements outlined in the Terms of Reference. Additional meetings may be added when needed.

Recording secretary to reach out again once the revised meeting schedule has been confirmed.