Texas A&M International Advisory Board
Fall Board Meeting
October 22-24, 2014

Attending:
Hildegard Boucsein
George Donnelly
Eric Chan
Herb Goodman
Kim Hammer
Nora Janjan
Yoshi Kawashima
Azmi Al-said Khreisat
Eun Kim
Pablo Marvin
Ed Monto
Frank Muller
Rolando Santos
Ed Solymosy
Deborah Walker
Hilmar Zeissig
Manolo Zuniga

Responding but unable to attend:
Francisco Alcala DeLeon
Klaus Aurisch
Jorge Bermudez
Rachel Ehlers
Yolando Fierro
Karl Hopkins
Jeffrey Jones
Gene Kornegay
Weldon Krueger
Keith Manning
Dwain Mayfield
Bill Mobjey
David Preng
Tom Turzak
Bill Way

Address from Interim President Mark Hussey
Thursday, October 23, 2014, 8:30 AM
Interim President Mark Hussey began his overview address by updating the board on student numbers. Currently we have more than 62,000 students this fall including Qatar, Galveston, law and health science schools. This number includes 13,000 grad students. He made note that the 25% of incoming freshman were first in their families to go to college. We are the third largest university in U.S.

He discussed the balance need to be high quantity and high quality. He stated he believe there is a way to do both and that TAMU is primed to be an example of how to do it. He noted Texas A&Ms membership in AAU requires that we excel in many areas especially research to become a member. This year we will top $830 million dollars in research which puts us in the top 13-15% and we will continue to try to attract faculty ...as great faculty attract great students.

He is working with the colleges and our students to look at how they can help solve pressing societal issues that A&M has strengths in: energy, environment, entrepreneurship, democracy, one health, among other topics.

On the International front, Hussey announced that an agreement has been signed with Santa Clara Center in San Miguel and is currently working on getting IT equipment there. Hussey said our plan is to engage "wholeheartedly" at the site. On November 13, just two weeks away, Texas A&M will celebrate 5 years at Soltis Center by looking forward to how we will manage the next five years. He mentioned several other areas that are in the focus such as the International Programs Committee, the Rwanda student Bridge program; a trade emissary visiting from Indonesia and announced that several China universities will be visiting shortly.

Dr. Hussey presented a handout developed by the IPC members on TAMU partnerships in Brazil based on question George Donnelly asked at the spring meeting.
Questions & responses:
Is there still pressure from the state government to maintain high research? There is a tremendous desire to have A&M remain a special place and also to maintain standing in AAU, and a healthy respect that TAMU and UT are different, because of the research productivity, but there are also increasing pressures on funding, so not sure what the investment from the state can look like going forward.

Can you update us on the Corps? Corps was at 2600 this year and expected to reach 3000. We have been renovating dorms and corps complex.

What can you tell us about the mandatory 10%? We are not having the difficulties here as places like Texas where 70% of incoming freshman have asked for relief from the rule.

What about choral and music and band hall renovations? The university will put up half the money and corps needs to match it for the band hall renovations. Hussey said we are working on building closer relations between Corps of Cadets at College station and those at Galveston. One member pointed out that there is a significant naming opportunity for the new band hall. Col Ruth said that they have instituted a system of awarding silver stars for corps members to wear if have higher than a 3.5 GPA, a gold star if they have a 4.0. Average corps GPA is equivalent to overall student body for first time in 20+ years.

TTVN Presentations
Dean Mark Weichold at A&M-Qatar
Thursday, October 23, 2014, 9:30 AM
Weichold told the board he is stepping down as Qatar dean after 10 years of service. He gave a little history of the branch campus and compared it to today stating that the mission of the campus is to be premier engineering program in region.

- First year: 7 faculty, 5 staff, 29 students. Today there are 92 faculty, 183 staff and 537 students plus 184 researchers with $196.7 million in research funding
- The TAMUQ admissions process is very selective with the same standards as College Station Flagship campus. The TAMUQ gest enrollment of the branch campuses in Qatar, and 40% female enrollment at undergraduate level. 1500 applications for 100 spots as freshman.
- Faculty/student ratio is between 6/1 and 7/1.
- Breakdown of students: 508 are degree-seeking, plus study abroad students and cross-registered students. Cross-registered means they follow the same curriculum as they would in College Station. Also have visual and performing arts requirement, but they can take A&M course or take it at partner branch campus in Qatar. About 53% of students are from Qatar, remainder from outside Qatar.
- Have about 2 dozen student associations including six honor societies such as the engineering honor society Phi Kappa Phi.
- Students have taken part in such events as designing a car for Shell marathon; Student won regional SPE competition and is competing next week at international SPE competition in Netherlands. TAMUQ students won the best senior design project for Senior Mechanical Engineering competition in College Station out of 78 teams.
- TAMUQ is expecting a shift toward mechanical engineering in their program and are actively recruiting students. Students are successfully moving into good jobs at graduation and graduate school numbers are up
- Have an Aggie Ring presentation ceremony at TAMUQ as they do here, with a lot of family participation and they also host a Run for the Ring race.
• High-Impact learning: 100% of freshmen are participating in freshman seminar, study abroad, and leadership exchange with CS campus. Their calendar is similar to ours, but their spring break is off-set so that there are students on campus during the leadership exchange. Also have undergraduate research opportunities. Have more than 100 students involved. A program team came in 3rd in country competing with 80+ teams.

• There are 6 departments, and 194 courses offered. TAMUQ currently does not offer tenure, but faculty are awarded with a "rolling" appointment when promoted.

• 2300 students have passed through Qatar campus. Have Nobel Laureate in chemistry as an adjunct faculty. His research is being used there to create new polymers. A&M-Qatar faculty produce more than 50% of countries archival journal publications.

• Have Doha offices of TEES Centers including a safety center, getting smart grid, then remote healthcare technology.

• Weichold said they have more than 2 dozen patents with sixteen of Qatar’s leading industry representatives involved in their organizations functions and /or research functions.

• It is time for SACs accreditation and Weichold is confident they will be successful.

• TAMUQ is recruiting heavily from local high schools with emphasis on STEM fields and recently gave an outstanding local STEM educator award to a high school teacher.

They are also conducting outreach to the community by provide English training. Weichold indicated that with their outreach they were enriching Qatar’s greatest natural resource, its people.

Question: Has international accreditation been sought? Answer: As we are offering the exact same degrees as Texas A&M in College Station, our accreditation is same. TAMUQ did have site visits from both Southern Association of Colleges & Schools (SACS) and ABET (Accrediting Body for Engineering & Technology) as part of TAMU processes and both were acknowledged for meeting standards required.

New International Affairs Department at Bush School
Thursday, October 23, 2014, 9:40 AM
Dr. Gregory Gause, New Professor and Department Head for International Affairs was presenting a paper in Doha, so joined Dr. Weichold to present via TTVN.

Dr. Gause discussed the creation of departments within Bush School for first time ever as a signal of the college’s growth and development. Discussed the International Affairs foci and prospects for new faculty hiring. Encouraged to learn of the International Board, its purpose and history. Strong recommendations from Dr. Chuck Hermann to be involved. Mentioned the intentions to have some Central and South American focus, transnational issues in Mexico and continued development of faculty with Asia, Middle East and African expertise.

Dr. Gause is looking forward to connecting more with the board in the Spring meeting.

Chad Wootton Comments and Member Updates
Thursday, October 23, 2014, 10:38 AM
Chad began by giving an update on some interesting things that have happened since the last board meeting

• Aggies Export Big Event to Spain (Barcelona), Germany (Bonn) & Italy (Castiglion Florentino) - 120 students involved
• AgriLife Research #1 in Research Expenditures for FY12 passing Florida, Illinois, Purdue, UC-Davis. $176.4 million
• Inaugural Law School Dean names - Andrew "Andy" Morriss, Buzbee Dean of Law. Will attend the spring board meeting
• Amb. Crocker - 62 interviews in 45 days on Syria, Gaza, ISIS. Most with A&M background.
• College of Education - $4.6 million grant to support educators who deliver adult education such as GED, retooling learning, literacy
• Texas A&M in the Rankings
  ○ Money Magazine - #6 public, #1 in state
  ○ Washington Monthly - #4. Beat out by UC Berkeley, Riverside and San Diego. Social mobility, research, discover, service to nation
  ○ Active Times - #1. Westpoint #2, Annapolis #3
  ○ Chronicle of Diversity in Higher Education - #1 Hispanic Ph.D. & top 10 African American masters & Ph.D.s
• Degrees awarded in 2013-2014 = 13,944. Highest in state and highest in history
• 6,000 international Students this year from 125 countries
• Brett Giroir - CEO of HSC leads Texas Ebola Taskforce. 3 other faculty on task fore
• Leadership Changes
  ○ President search ongoing
  ○ Jerry Strawser named VP for Finance & CFO
  ○ Dean Doug Palmer, Education (2 terms), search underway. 1st search not successful.
  ○ Dean Joe Newton, Science (3 terms), search underway
  ○ Dean Jose Bermudez, left LA after 1 term, search underway. Pam Matthews is interim Dean
  ○ Dean Jerry Strawser left Business after 3 terms, search underway. Ricky Griffin is interim
  ○ Dean Mark Weichold, A&M-Qatar (2 terms), search underway
  ○ VP Marketing and Communications. Jason Cook went to Athletics. Shane Hinckley interim. Programmatic review initiated to look at Marketing and Communications.
  ○ VP Student Affairs named Executive Director of Tx DPS. Tom Reber interim, search underway
  ○ VC for Marketing & Communications. Steve Moore went to UT Southwest.
• Reviews
  • Price Waterhouse Cooper is ongoing and certain aspects are being applied to the University’s decisions such as the cut back on Cell Phone stipends and the new policy for 9 month faculty appointments and adjusting annual and sick leave pool liabilities.
  • Chad also discussed the transition in Public Partnership & Outreach including the move of Global Partnership Support including international agreements, international centers and partnership services. This allows Chad to oversee the partnership activities and provide services to external communities, faculty, colleges and university administration in more meaningful and coordinated manner.

International Program Committee Update and Initiatives
Thursday, October 23, 2014, 11:39 AM
Elton Abbot, Professor of Architecture and Co-chair of the IPC with Jim Woosley, Instructional Professor of Health and Kinesiology, Speaker of the Faculty Senate and Co-Chair of IPC
Elton Abbot and Jim Woosley asked the IPC Members to self-introduce and give a brief overview of what is happening in the colleges.
• Paulo Lima-Filho, College of Science shared that they are looking beyond faculty-led programs. Example - working with a Chinese university who are funding students to spend last year at A&M; Increasing
competitiveness of their students as they see what the Chinese students do and how they perform; new programs in Portugal and Scotland and new initiative in Nigeria.

- Elton Abbot - Architecture's major accomplishment is bringing Katy Dunn to the mix
- Maria Alves - Engineering has 25% of students going abroad and trying for 50%.
- Julian Gaspar, Mays Business School - Center for International Business and Research (CIBER) grant for another 4 year period.
- Bob Shandley, College of Liberal Arts - Connection with Israel that they're starting, mainly at faculty level but possibility for students
- Randy Kluver, new PPO member, introduced his team members present: Traci & Connie who support Confucius Institute and Project Go Grants as well as other global program support functions.

James Woosley gave Board members a list of the updated representatives on the IPC.

**Medisend Presentation**

Thursday, October 23, 2014, noon

Nora Janjan introduced the luncheon speaker, Ken Lindemann, M.D. and PhD. Lindemann is the principal of Strategic Health Management Advisors and a Board Member of Medisend International is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Dallas. It is a global leader and innovator in transforming healthcare in developing countries. Its programs are specifically designed to meet the needs and challenges of developing country hospital and include:

- certified training and education in biomedical equipment technology
- test and repair laboratories
- technical support
- the distribution of medical supplies and biomedical equipment

Lindemann explained that the donated medical equipment sent to underdeveloped countries often sat unused because hospital staff did not know how to use it or repair it when if malfunctioned. Medisend has developed a training program to solve that problem and is actively recruiting veterans to take the six month course. Medisend is looking for partners in this endeavor and appreciated the suggestions from the board to ramping up the programs in-country by taking advantage of local entrepreneurs.

**Health Science Center**

Thursday, October 23, 20141:57 PM

James N. Burdine, D.Ph., Interim Dean, Health Science Center
Natalie Johnson, Assistant Professor in Environmental & Occupational Health
Bernard Appiah, Instructional Assistant professor, Department of Public Health

The Health Science Center is working with and training people to give vaccines in developing countries as well as teach about what vaccines the benefits of the vaccines. Burdine gave an overview of that is going on in the College and spoke about health in the workplace and for our students and the research that is being done in that area.
Such as - Standing desks
- helps with behavior problems, especially with students that have trouble standing still
- Burns 30% more calories
- Have eliminated speakers back problems
Other News
- Kano State, Nigeria is sponsoring 20 students for full education; these student will go back to work in Nigeria
- Reach-Care Foundation in Nigeria and HSC signed a MOU for Ambicycle
- Taraba State, Nigeria is coming to talk about signing an agreement similar to Kano State
- Nigerian CDC Director was here recently to talk about coordinating effort in Nigeria and surrounding region
- Faculty/student study/research trip to Mumbai
- Annual trips to China to study health care
- Joint capstone course with Bush School for USAID in Liberia. 10 from Bush School, 10 from HSC
- Work with OneHealth in Nicaragua

Natalie Johnson (toxicologist) from Environmental and Occupations Health spoke about her research involving about 60 students. OneHealth looks at intersect between human, animal and environmental health. She works with aflatoxins and has moved from working in Africa to China. Working with faculty member at Nanjing University has grant to look at the effects of traffic-related air pollution on in children and infants. Ambicycle method of transportation will service areas where cars can't go and for greater mobility it can be attached to a helicopter.

Bernard Appiah has a BS in pharmacy and a Master’s in science in journalism, with a doctorate in public health.
- He is working on 18-month project to promote public engagement in environmental health in Ghana, Kenya & Uganda. Funded by British group. Involves environmental health research in 3 universities in sub-Saharan Africa. Idea is that scientists share their work with science journalists who then disseminate the information. MOA with Tanzania Association of Environmental Engineers.
- Also looking at neurocognitive effects of air pollution.
- AuthorAid is to help researchers in developing countries to get published and to write proposals.
- Moderates an online discussion group of about 1400 researchers from more than 100 countries.
- Holds face-to-face and online workshops.
- Appiah also teaches about cultural context and appropriateness

Sub Committee Breakout Sessions
Chairman Rey Spinelli called for the International Board Sub Committees to break into small groups. The groups were to continue and expand on the discussions from the last board meeting and bring the results of their meeting to the Board on Friday. The meeting was adjourned for the day as groups completed their discussions. Three breakout sessions were facilitated as follows:

Operations Sub Committee facilitated by Dr. Chris Houser
Awards & Nominations Sub Committee facilitated by Chad Wootton
International Studies Sub Committee facilitated by Dr. Bob Shandley

Board Meeting Day Two
Chairman Rey Spinelli called the Friday meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He gave a quick recap of the first day and announced that the Board is considering the location of the fall 2015 meeting location to be Santa Clara, near San Miguel, Mexico.
International Initiative Discussion
Friday, October 24, 2014, 9:15 PM

Academy for Future International Leaders – Spinelli told of the AFIL Survey conducted with last year’s students and pointed out one area of concerns with regard to Mentoring. The students indicated they needed more contact than just email Spinelli encourages Board mentors to use telephone, skype and face to face meetings as often as possible.

International Students and Aggie Rings – Frank Muller introduced the subject by telling of a conversation with a former international student who wants to make a donation and ask his advice on how to do that and have a lasting impact. Right after that Muller had a conversation with student Joe Rodriquez. Rodriquez was introduced and told his story of an international friend who wanted a ring but could not afford it. This and additional story told by Linda Edwards of the impact of a former board member and ASF Chairman who paid for the ring of another international student.

These stories spurred discussion about the need to understand the networking significance of the Aggie ring and how international students could receive seminars during their orientations as well as presentations to the International Student Association and the Graduate Students Association. The idea of a “pay it forward” account funding by former and current international student was suggested. This discussion circled back to the international survey project discussed by the Board a year ago. It was suggested that the ring “fund” idea and the survey be recommended to the Executive Committee for further action.

Passport Day in October – Board members were informed that Study abroad is continuing to offer passport services and is offering free passports to regents scholars and Pell Grant Recipients. The Study Abroad office is able to do this with the proceeds of the passport service and under the Learning for a Lifetime program

Brazos Valley Worldfest – Kim Fox and Linda Edwards gave a report on the festival and how the Board can help. Fox pointed to the report in the Board packet and ask Board members to donate through the Brazos Valley Worldfest GoFundMe account online.

Soltis Center Celebration – Chad Wootton gave a brief update on the Soltis Center Celebration and indicated that while there is reason to celebrate, one of the main purposes of the event is to spur conversation about the future of the Center and ways to facilitate additional programming, courses, building packages for groups like the International Board and other groups that might have meetings there.

Capital Campaign – the one thread that brings all these international initiatives together is funding or lack thereof. In the Board’s letter to Interim President Mark Hussey at the end of this board meeting will include a request that International funding be added as focus in the upcoming Capital Campaign.

Santa Chiara Program Review
Friday, October 24, 2014, 9:45 PM

Elton Abbot, Professor of Architecture and co-chair of the International Programs Committee, gave the history of and an overview of the utilization of the Santa Chiara Center and a look at how his college promotes study abroad. He reminded the Board that the College of Architecture has a mandatory semester away program to be used for study abroad, internships or study at another university – domestic or international citing Imperative 6 of Vision 2020. He showed how the learning of how to learn dramatically increases with new experiences. The College of Architecture has the highest percentage of participation in Study Abroad at 77%.
Architecture takes students to the UK, Italy, Spain, Germany and Italy for their semester long programs and also uses the Santa Chiara Center for its short programs.

His overview of the Santa Chiara Center looked at the 25 year partnership with the city of Castiglione Fiorentino and included a look at who goes there, the academic through classwork, labs and studio study as well as the side trips of one day to one week. Abbot said the students return to basics of slide rule and library books for their research, relying on the computer to document the study providing a richness he believes is important.

Awards and Nominations
Chad Wootton, Associate Vice President for External Affairs reported on behalf of the Awards and Nominations Sub Committee
Wootton Reported that the Sub Committee began with a review of the Charge and the charge was upheld. Minutes were amended to reflect “Chad bad Math” on the 3 year terms and were approved as edited.

A report on the outcome of talks with the Association of Former students showed that the Outstanding International Alumnus Award will be continued as it is. The Award will be awarded in spring 201. Portions of the Distinguished Alumni Committee will be used to select the recipient in addition to members chosen by the President.

Term limits we determined at 3 years with new members fulfilling their obligation in 2015 and 2016 as their invitation from the Provost states. A lottery system was used to determine the remaining 29 Board members term classes of 2014, 2015, 2016 with all terms renewable for up to 3 years at mutual consent.

Under new business the Committee reviewed new IA Board member invites and will recommend the following to the Executive Committee:

- With Individual Consultation – Re-appointments from Class of 2014 (Aleman-Zubieta, Boucsein, Goodman, Kawashima, Marvin, Mobley, Mushtaq, Ruth, Spinelli, Way)
- Recommend the following as new invites for the Class of 2017
  - Jorge Chamot (Houston/Peru) Former Minister of Energy & Mines in Peru
  - Gabriele Campana ’81 (Miami, FL) Entrepreneur, Retail/Wholesale, Export/Import
  - Tony Nash ’93 (Singapore/Houston) Orient Networks, Marketing & Communications
  - Kirk A. Shireman ’85 (Houston) Deputy Director, Johnson Space Center, NASA
  - Fernando Quinonez-Meza ’63 (Miami/El Salvador) Former Consul General, Grandfather was President of El Salvador, Agricultural Operations.
- Anita Val Alstyn (College Station) and Anita Kadala (Houston) were table for 2015 discussion

Chad announced that the committee is seeking new nominations now and throughout spring and summer for fall 2015 consideration and recommendation.

Awards
- Launch a campaign to support nominations of previous OIA Awards for Distinguished Alumni Awards – Review listing and select 1-2 for nomination before AFS deadline of Oct. 1 2015
- Bush Awards for Excellence in International Teaching and Research and Public Service. The committee designated Richardson, Khreisat and Zuniga to serve on these selection committees for 2015 awards, complementing the on campus selection committee representatives.
• Fulbright Scholar Promotion and Application Training – recommend that IAB members be asked to participate in this training and offer support for application packets, Linda Edwards and Dean of Faculty to coordinate.

• 2014 IIE Andrew Hieskill Award Nomination made by Randy Kluver for the Corps of Cadets Global initiatives. The Committee recommended that IAB offer the President additional support for this nomination by determining if an additional letter of support is needed and that nominations be sought each year to highlight TAMU international efforts. Further recommended that Public Partnership and Outreach look for and help prepare with IAB and IPC support, additional national/international award nominations that further highlight global partnership/programs successes.

Operations Sub Committee

Chris Houser, Associate Professor and, Associate Dean of Geography reported for the Sub Committee on Operations.

Houser said the main discussion of his group was:
- Maintaining enrollment focus of the Soltis Center
- Texas A&M Foundation
- Defining the role of the Mexico Civil Association

To maintain and increase the enrollment at the Soltis Center planning needs to be done to create new models for the use of Soltis Center that may be adaptable for Santa Clara. Internationalizing faculty to the opportunities available in Europe, Mexico and Costa Rica is also a critical need. Houser said the Soltis Center is in talks with Universities outside Texas A&M such as Lee College and University of Alabama (programs where TAMU graduates or former faculty are) to bring their programs. These programs will fill holes in the use of the Center.

The committee strongly supports the concept of a line item being added to the Texas A&M Foundation Campaign to make funds available for developing new courses and scholarships for students.

The committee discussed the role of the Civil Association in Mexico and how it could be leveraged in the future by creating partnerships with Universities who do not have this option for securing grants and doing business in Mexico

International Studies Sub Committee

Robert Shadley, Professor and Department Head for International Studies reported on the International Studies Sub Committee

Bob Shadley gave an update for the International Studies Sub Committee with regard to hiring, and news. The committee focused on interactions to support the internationalization of the unit; what teh committee can do to help the department and some framing strategies.

The Sub Committee posed an important question; what is it that the committee can do for INTS? We discussed the idea of inviting committee members to campus to talk about their international experiences. It could serve as an important bridge between the theoretical education they receive in the classroom and the practical experience of the members. We also discussed the need usefulness of the committee to help Bob frame his own message of what the department strategies and initiatives. For the next meeting, Shandley will discuss the departmental strategic plan.
Shandley said he is also working with Chris Houser and the Department of Geography. They have a new track in International studies in this development and the students get a minor in GIS.

Board Members said they would love to:
- Be invited to speak in classes or give seminars.
- Be a good sounding board as to the practicality of studies, research, and proposed solutions.
- Reach out to other companies and corporations in their field because if they don’t handle that, they may very well know someone who does.
- Give presentations on different cultures when doing business.

Hilmar remarked that students need to learn how to get out of a situation they are not equipped to handle. Board members asked what jobs are available to students who take international studies. Additional suggestions are that students need to know more about etiquette, thank you's, communications, politeness. Shandley talked about importance of getting not after TAMU email addresses from students as the Former Students Association tends to guard that information.

Rey Spinelli thanked all the Board members and participants in the 2014 Board meeting and asked the to join the board for lunch in MSC 2300 A where Dr. Mohammad Tabaar, Assistant Professor of International Affairs in the Bush School of Government and Public Policy gave a presentation on the U.S. & Iran: Rise of the IS & New Middle East Cold War.

The meeting was adjourned at the end of lunch. The Dates for the spring board meeting are April 23 and 24.