Highlights from the International Advisory Board (IAB) Meeting  
Texas A&M University April 24-25, 2014

Attending:
Klaus Aurisch  Jeffr.  ey Jones  Ed Monto  Reynaldo Spinelli
Hildegard Boucsein  Yoshi Kawashima  Frank Muller  Tom Turzak
George Donnelly  Gene Kornegay  Mahmood Mushtaq  Deborah Walker
Rachel Ehlers  Weldon Kruger  Bruce Nichols  Hilmar Zeissig
Herb Goodman  Keith Manning  Gary Richardson  Manuel (Manolo) Zuniga
Kim Hammer  Pablo Marvin  Rolando Santos

IAB members asked that all Power Points presentations and handouts used during the Board Meeting be made available online at http://iboard.tamu.edu so that all board members could access.

Materials List:
- University Update and Budget Explanation – Chad Wootton (IAB Spring Mtg Overview Power Point and handouts)
- International Data and new Commitment to Study Abroad (Jane Flaherty Power Point; handouts form Suzanne Droleskey were sent out ahead of time, but one was missing – all on the website)
- Lunch Presentation from Hildegard Boucsein on the Rias Journalism Program and the 25th “Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall” (no handouts or Power Point). Pablo Marvin and Federico Logorretta, Hacienda Santa Clara Update (Power Point)
- Global Programs Support – Soltis Center Update by Chris Houser (Power Point)
- Budget Overview by Chad (website)
- Battle of Bastogne War Museum “Aggies Go To War” website with film at http://texasaggiesgotowarexhibit.tamus.edu/
- International Affairs Update – Ambassador Andrew Natsios (Power Point)
- International Student Career Development (Power Point)

The following notes are in chronological order.

Day One:
The meeting was brought to order with greetings form Chad Wootton and Chairman Rey Spinelli. New Board members Jeffrey Jones, Gene Kornegay and “Manolo” Manuel Zuniga introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of what they do. Board members introduced themselves to the new Board members a little later in the morning. Chad gave the agenda overview and provided a Campus Headlines and Board member Headlines (see the Spring ’14 Meeting Overview powerpoint slides for detail)

Dr. Mark Hussey, Interim President at Texas A&M began his presentation by thanking the Board for their dedication and hard work over the years. He shared some of his initiatives for the future as taking care and cleaning up some things for the new President to come. He indicated that he wanted to put a “stake in the ground” relative to international relations saying commitment at the top was essential for success and sustainability. He began his update with an overview of student numbers (currently at 58,800), the new additions of the Health Science Center and Law School and explained the correlation to the numbers of students that now make Texas A&M the largest University in the State. He spoke of the challenges that increased number of students bring to the graduation ceremony and how they would handle the crowds by issuing a certain number of tickets to families – reminiscent to the days when graduation was held in G. Rollie White. He then moved on to give updates on the construction on Campus and the searches for 4-5 Deans and how critical the stability of the Provost position was to bringing in good candidates. Hussey reminded the Board of the upcoming conclusion to the 20 year period described by Vision 2020 and that many of the aspirations have been realized, but it was not intended to be an endgame but a journey to a culture of excellence and A&M’s acceptance as a preeminent university. He finished up with the new goals for study abroad and the Qatar Campus contract renewal for another ten years. Hussey reminded everyone that the President and Provost were facilitators of these goals but the action actually occurs at the college level with students and faculty in the lead. Hussey opened the floor for questions. Questions were about the Galveston campus and Hussey assured all that there is a lot of
excitement going into Ocean Engineering and the Deep Water Program at Galveston. Regarding concept for partnerships with Israel, Dr. Hussey indicated premature to comment at this point due to number of remaining questions on funding, partnership design, etc.

**International Data and New Commitment to Study Abroad - Pam Matthews, Professor of English and Vice Provost; Jane Flaherty, Director of Study Abroad; and Suzanne Droleskey, Executive Director Global Program Support** (Handouts and Power Point)

Dr. Matthews introduced the topic and panel with a reminder of TAMU commitment to high impact learning, and the service role her team plays in support of the Colleges. Credit bearing international experience still is the goal, but other types of study abroad and int'l experience are measured as well. Suzanne Droleskey explained the numbers on her Data Sheets that were sent to all Board members before the meeting, paying close attention to the difference between credit bearing numbers and overall Study Abroad experiences. The Board was also introduced to the data for Visiting Scholars and by home country with the largest numbers coming from China, India, and Korea as well as the data for international students (not in the handouts). Droleskey showed members where to find the most up to date information on the Global Program Support website at [http://globalsupport.tamu.edu/content/international-education-data](http://globalsupport.tamu.edu/content/international-education-data).

Jane Flaherty's presented the concept behind the new commitment to increase study abroad credit bearing numbers to 4,000 by 2017 and introduced the General Study Aboard concept (handout). She also spoke of the Big Event going international in Germany, Spain and Italy this year and the Passport services offered by the SA Office as well as national scholarly opportunities and the International High Impact Education Showcase. Board members responded with several suggestions to help Study Aboard reach their goal:

- Have a presence during the overview for students and parents at New Student Conferences (held in the Auditorium)
- Consider short video/podcasts from Board members with a common message on how important study abroad is to a student’s future. Hosted on the SA website and used in presentations across campus
- Have Board Members “Skype” in to presentations giving a personal appearance with Q&A options

**Lunch Presentations:**

**Hildegard Boucsein** gave Board Members a brief explanation of her Rias Berlin Commission program bringing German journalist to the U.S. (and vice versa US journalist to Germany and Brussels). The focus of the program is to gain an understanding—from the U.S. perspective—of the impact that economics, energy issues, homeland security, and health and educational reform have on U.S. policy and elections. The journalists meet with politicians, opinion makers, government officials, common people, and media organizations to gain an in-depth picture of the key issues of importance to the American population. Because elections play an important role in the German media, the journalists’ home stations consider this program as a key element to providing balanced, non-partisan, well informed coverage of the highly contested American midterm elections. During the trip, the German journalists are exposed to different and very diverse political perceptions, both in the heart of Washington, D.C., and far away from the capital in the State of Texas.

Boucsein also reported on successful meetings with Dean Ryan Crocker of the Bush School of Government and Public Service and their joint efforts to establish new cooperations with German partners (including high level internships in Germany for Bush School graduates). She also reported on their plans to collaborate on the celebration of the “25th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall” set for the Week of November 10 at the Bush Presidential Library and Conference Center. She also introduced Dr. Gabriela Thornton, who teaches classes on the European Union, transatlantic security, and democratization processes and is her collaborator for internships and study abroad groups from the Bush School.

**Pablo Marvin and Federico Legoretta**, General Manager of Hacienda Santa Clara (HSC) gave a presentation about the new corporation Pablo has established to develop and host Study Abroad and collaboration events at his destination in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico. The 344 acre
campus will soon host 72 students (with potential of 500 in the future) to experience high impact learning opportunities aimed at preparing them to become lifelong global learners. Just three hours from Mexico City and 20 minutes from the Universidad de Guanajuato, HSC will offer courses in Spanish, Mexican history and culture, painting and visual arts, photography and cooking Cuisine food and other topics. Texas A&M will develop additional credit bearing courses as they consider the opportunities for students in the areas of Liberal Arts, Engineering, Veterinary Medicine, Agriculture, Education, Geosciences and others. The photo slide show of the beautiful grounds with explanations of future plans was very interesting. Texas A&M is working towards a master agreement with Pablo’s Mexico based corporation, that will allow for ease of planning study abroad and collaboration events (conferences, workshop, etc). a number of details remain to be worked out. Texas A&M’s partnership will include the sponsorship of computer hardware, some IT support and the use of TAMU marks as an “affiliate” of Pablo’s corporation. In turn, Pablo will provide preferential pricing and scheduling to TAMU programs.

Soltis Center Update – Chris Houser, Professor of Geography & Global Faculty Ambassador
As a follow-up to the presentation provided by Chris Houser in the fall, he was back to report on the success of the efforts to increase the use of the Soltis Research and Education Center. The Center continues to offer a unique setting for the development of multi-disciplinary research activities, service projects and study abroad courses. The modern facilities of the Center include dorms, a cafeteria and multiple use areas, labs, classrooms, internet access, and a video conference room, all wheelchair accessible, along with more than 250 acres of primary and second growth forests. Houser reported that the Center is operating in the black for the first time and that this fall the Center will offer its first full-semester course. He shared the two large grants awarded by the Department of Energy for watershed research and Eco hydrology study and the project funded by Earthwatch for migratory studies as well as other proposals that have been submitted to Geoscientist without Borders for the student on predicting landslides are some of the reasons for the Center’s recent success. He also spoke of future plans to involve architecture in new observation platforms and other upgrades to the property. A list of current education and service learning activities for Texas A&M students and research being conducted by faculty from all over the world can be found at the centers website at http://soltiscentercostarica.tamu.edu/. Also discussed the Center’s 5 Year Anniversary this summer and plans for an event in the Fall with key stakeholders.

Breakout sessions for Board Subcommittees Work Sessions Ending Day One

Day Two
Rey Spinelli brought the meeting to order and Chad offered a review of the agenda for day two. Chad also gave a brief presentation on the Texas A&M Budget (handouts). He instructed the board that they can review the budget and other information at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board website http://www.thecb.state.us (From the THECB homepage, choose Finance & Resource Planning tab, then the Sources & Uses tab. The tables for all universities are found in the annual reports listed on this page).

Battle of Bastogne War Museum Collaboration Report: Brent Cornwell, Director, Systems Office of Technology Commercialization and Linda Ravey, Project Coordinator
Brent Cornwell gave a presentation on the proposed “Texas Aggies Go to War” exhibit set to open in Bastogne, Belgium on December 12 right before the 70th Anniversary of World War IIs Battle of the Bulge. Cornwell said the concept and theme of the exhibit centered around an Aggie Ring and five aggies whose lives will tell the story. The exhibit will consist of 5,000 square feet of space in seven rooms telling a longitudinal story. It starts with America before the war, takes patrons through battles including Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge, and ends with a room of present-day partnerships between Bastogne and the Brazos Valley. There will be a room of remembrance to honor Aggies who lost their lives in World War II and an oral history room with five select Aggies with special stories, such as former A&M president James Earl Rudder and former NFL player Joe Routt as well as Turney Leonard, William Pena, and Gen. James F. Hollingsworth. The exhibit will remain in Bastogne for two years before returning to College Station as a permanent exhibit here. Board members viewed a film that can also be seen online at http://texasaggiesgotowarexhibit.tamus.edu/
International Affairs Update – Ambassador Andrew Natsios, Professor and Director Scowcroft Institute for International Affairs, George Bush School of Government & Public Service.

Ambassador gave an overview of where the Scowcroft Institute is and where he would like it to be. He shared a plan for conferences that result in book publications; Formal remarks concluded with a slide on upcoming projects and request for the Board to assist in promoting the work of the Institute.

When asked about the Crimean take over and the Ukrainian situation, he stimulated a lively conversation about the Ukrainian situation with Russia and the lack of interested in Washington on its outcome – calling it disturbing.

Andrew Card, Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation and White House Chief of Staff and current Special Strategic Advisor to the Provost was in attendance through the morning session and provided a brief update on his efforts related to reviewing programs on “leadership” which exist around campus. He had several anecdotes about the challenges around leadership, its meaning, the depth of some of the programs, mentoring responsibilities and that even though Texas A&M is well known for experiences that allow students to practice leadership, we are not well regarded as "experts" because we haven’t published or presented in manner that generates scholarship on the subject of leadership. A challenge he believes can be easily overcome with some coordination and what he is proposing to Provost. He also noted that programs like the Academy for Future International Leaders is a good example and could have some real scholarship generated from the experience of the students, assessment, etc.

International Student Career Development – Bill Taylor, Director of International Student Services (ISS); Katy Mears, Assistant director of ISS; Dr. Katie Stober, Associate Director of the Career Center

Taylor, Mears and Stober shared the new program to provide career development for International Students with J-1 and F-1 visas. Most international students enter the United States using one of two student visas. The majority of Texas A&M students are F-1 visa holders. A smaller number have J-1 visas. Generally, F-1 students have private sources of funding, while J-1 students often have corporate, governmental, or international agency funding. Although the main purpose of any student visa is to study in the United States, both visa classifications allow for the authorized employment of these students. Federal regulations allow F-1 students to work on the premises of the school that issued their currently valid I-20 or DS-2019 if they are in good standing at that school and they are maintaining legal non-immigrant status for 20 hours a week during the main semester. An F-1 student may work an addition 12 months of practical training (OPT)after a degree is earned, and possibly an additional 17 months may be granted for those in a STEM major. A J-1 student has a maximum of 18 months of (CPT) academic training (or 36 months if they are post-doctoral fellows) to use during and/or after they earn their degree, depending on the length of the degree program.

The Professional Development program developed collaboratively by ISS and the Career Center, along with several other offices, helps international students with resumes, successful interviewing skills and networking as well as provides workshops on topics such as cultural norms for U.S. employers.

Subcommittee Reports

Awards & Nominations Subcommittee: The committee reviewed and approved the charge to:

Facilitate review of new member nominations and recommendations to Exec Committee and full IAB;
Support IPC members needs for College council, committee and taskforce membership suggestions to Deans; Serve as members of international awards and recognition committees as needed; and promote nominations of globally impactful former students and friends for various awards programs.

The committee first reviewed the nominations of prospective new Board members:
- Fernando Quinonez-Meza (AgEco honor roll, grandfather was President of El Salvador, now lives in Miami)
- Jorge Chamot (former Minister of Energy & Mines in Peru)
- Tony Nash (Business and communications leader in Asia) and
- Gianina de Correa, (active business woman and political leader in Panama)
The committee recommended that new board members be invited as cohorts (3 year terms) to be invited to start Spring of Calendar year. These will be tabled for additional review at the Fall Meeting. Further recommendation included each prospect be contacted for a conversation by a committee member and then to send good candidates on to the Chairman and the Executive Committee, before Fall Meeting each year, where board as a whole will review.

The second item on the agenda was to discuss developing an Emeritus status for Board members who leave the Board in good status. The recommendation was to not form an Emeritus status with the exception of our former Chairman, but to invite past board members to special occasion dinners such as anniversaries, as appropriate.

The third item was a discussion concerning term limits. The recommendation was to continue setting three year term limits to all incoming classes of new board members and to have the remaining 29 draw a one, two to three year term limit from a hat with the understanding that if they wished they could serve additional terms.

Discussions concerning the Outstanding International Alumni Award, the Bush Excellence Awards and the Presidential Award of Excellence to Faculty Service to International Students resulted in the following recommendations:
- Keep the OIA separate from the Distinguished Alumni and revamp the College participation
- IAB Members to Serve on the Selection Committee for the Bush Excellence Awards
- Keep the Presidential Award of Excellence to Faculty if there is sustainability funding from the President’s Office. Chad to pursue opportunity for funding from President Office, with consideration of matching from the board?

**Operations Subcommittee**: Committee Charge is to Support Vice Provost in counsel, planning and fiduciary review of international agreements and facilations of associations and facilities as in the Costa Rica Civil Association and Soltis Center; Participate in annual review of International agreements and MOA’s; And Provide feedback on opportunities and proposed engagements by third parties, as appropriate. The Committee explored maintaining focus on increasing enrollment in the study abroad centers and recommended using IAB members as liaisons for study abroad activities as well as asking board members to use their influence with the TAMU Foundation to initiate some fund raising opportunities.

**International Studies Department Subcommittee**: Charge is Interact with faculty and staff of International Studies Department to build on strategic planning and initiatives; Build connections with the full IAB for program and initiative support of the Department; Promote international opportunities with faculty and staff; Provide external review of department progress; and identify resource opportunities. The Committee explored developing a departmental profile to help better articulate what a major in International Studies prepares students for; create an opportunity at next board meeting for International Studies faculty to interact with the Intl Advisory Board; Share the department’s strategic planning activities to date with the subcommittee; continue to pursue curricular enhancements in discussion with the board, particularly in areas of internships and why which languages are being taught the way they are. Look for an opportunity for Dr. Shandley to interact in Houston with subset of the subcommittee.

**Adjournment**
The board meeting was closed by Chairman Rey Spinelli. Fall dates are October 23 and 24, with a student dinner involving the Regent Scholars program on October 22. Spring 2015 dates are set for April 23 and 24th.

The Board had lunch with students from AFIL, International Student Association and presented a number of international student awards and recognitions. The International Student Association provided an overview of the 2014 International Student Week Activities.

*Shortly following the board meeting, it was announced that Dr. Pam Matthews, Vice Provost, would be serving as the interim Dean of College of Liberal Arts effective July 1st.*